

Hafa Adai!

Sablan tells Senate marijuana industry is 'booming' **PAGE 3**
DPS responds to an overturned vessel near Mañagaha. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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CEC certifies election results

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The remaining 191 absentee ballots did not change the unofficial results of the Nov. 3 general elections, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A.

» **191 absentee ballots did not change the unofficial results**

Villagomez last night.

After the counting of absentee ballots at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

See CEC on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, Nov. 17, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	5,924	0	5,924
Recovered	3,942	0	3,942
Active	1,890	0	1,890
Deaths	98	2	100
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			76,502

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	103	0	103
Traced via Travel Screening	77	0	77
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			94

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



Dela Cruz

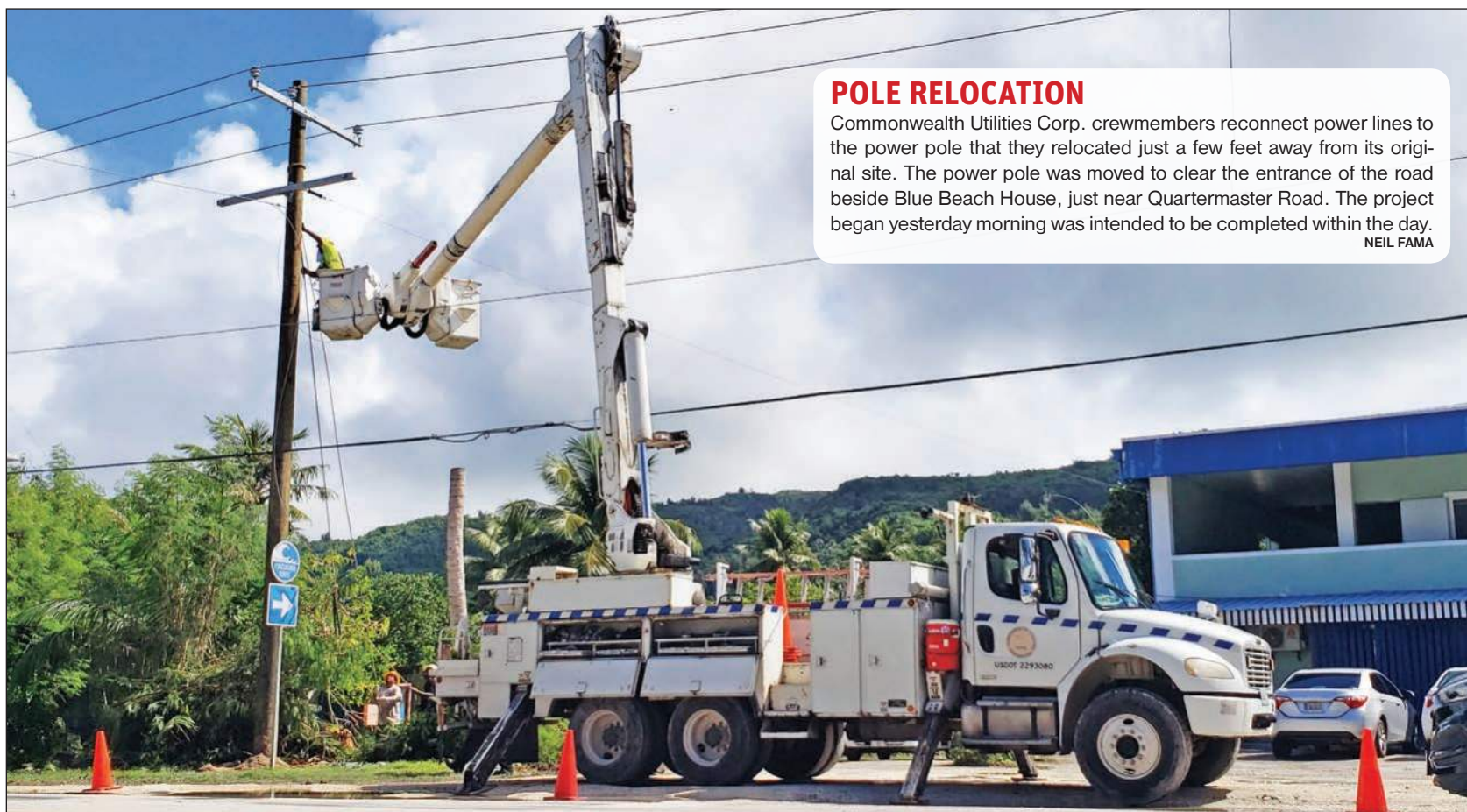
DPL gets Hyatt proposal but...

» **DPL still waiting for submission of missing docs**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has already received the official proposal packet from Hyatt Regency Saipan regarding their expiring public land lease, DPL disclosed yesterday.

See DPL on **Page 4**



POLE RELOCATION

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crewmembers reconnect power lines to the power pole that they relocated just a few feet away from its original site. The power pole was moved to clear the entrance of the road beside Blue Beach House, just near Quartermaster Road. The project began yesterday morning was intended to be completed within the day.

NEIL FAMA

Kilili: NMI to get anti-COVID-19 drug

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp. is set to receive

10 vials of an antibody treatment for COVID-19 that has been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for
See KILILI on **Page 4**

2nd virus vaccine shows striking success in US tests

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

A second experimental COVID-19 vaccine—this one

from Moderna Inc.—yielded extraordinarily strong early results Monday, another badly needed dose of hope as the pandemic enters a terrible

new phase.

Moderna said its vaccine appears to be 94.5% effective, according to preliminary data

See VIRUS on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Pacific Island Club-Saipan in San Antonio introduces its Kid's Care Program.

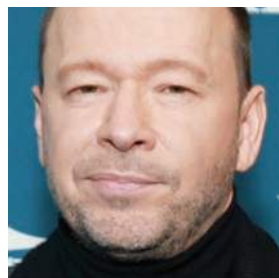
PAGE 11



NATION

'More people may die': Joe Biden urges President Donald Trump to aid transition.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Actor Donnie Wahlberg recently left a \$2,020 tip at a Massachusetts restaurant.

PAGE 15



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | PRECINCT 3

Local

Santos: Rota should get \$200K

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) estimates that Rota should get about \$200,000 from certain revolving accounts that were established by legislation.

Santos said Monday these funds are on top of the general appropriations provided for Rota in the fiscal year 2021 Budget Act.

She noted that these revolving funds are without fiscal limitations or restricted from any reprogramming, and should be expended for their intended purposes.

Santos earlier found out that there are certain revolving accounts established by legislation that provide for the specific collection of fees that remain with the senatorial district or provided to the senatorial district. Santos said she just learned about the revolving accounts during the government's 2021 budget public hearings.

One such account, Santos said, is the Conservation Area

Management Revolving Fund. When she inquired with the Department of Finance about this, financial analyst Travis



Santos

Calvo informed Santos on Monday that, according to law, the Finance secretary shall allocate the Conservation Area Management Revolving Fund at the request of the Department of

Lands and Natural Resources. Calvo said Finance can only set up the fund at the request of DLNR and that Finance has not received that request.

The senator recently urged Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to work with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to identify the accounts and funds in the accounts so that the funds can be put to use for the purposes consistent with the laws.

Santos identified the revolving accounts funds as the Marianas Visitors Authority Trust Fund, Developer Tax, Agriculture Equipment Service Revolving Fund program, Conservation Area Management Revolving Fund, Special Accounts Funds, and the CNMI Tobacco Settlement Expenditure Fund.

126 Guam construction firms OK'd

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam has approved a total of 126 contractors to resume operations—three days after suspending all construction projects in Guam last Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020.

DPHSS said in a statement that it continues to receive requests for clearance and will move as quickly as possible to review all applications for clearance it receives.

DPHSS suspended all construction projects in Guam last Nov. 14, due to the finding of significant clusters of COVID-19 positive cases among the employees of local construction companies.

Construction companies and contractors requesting for clearance must apply for clearance from DPHSS first and comply with a list of contractor clearance. (PR)

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CALVO'S
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This is a brief description of the features of Calvo's SelectCare. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's Federal brochure RI 73-874. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure. Airfare benefit, Dental Plan and Free Gym Membership are non-FEHB benefits.

Sablan tells Senate marijuana industry is 'booming'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

So far, since marijuana cultivation became legal in the CNMI, the CNMI Cannabis Commission has received 12 applications for commercial licenses, while another 11 have expressed interest in also securing commercial licenses.

That's according to commission managing director Monique Sablan yesterday in her presentation before the Senate Standing Committee on Cannabis and Gaming at the Legislature on Capital Hill. She described the new industry as "booming."

As of yesterday, Sablan said, the total application fees collected from the 12 applicants is \$11,250, and that majority of those 12 applications were collected in about one day.

She said two submitted license applications for marijuana producer class 1; four for marijuana producer class 3; one for marijuana processor; one for marijuana wholesaler; two for marijuana retailer; and two for marijuana lounge Both Class.

If all these 12 applications for licenses are approved, that means the commission will get up to another \$56,500 in total fees, she said.

"That's \$56,500 since [last] Aug. 4. And I'm a one-man team," Sablan said.

She disclosed that the 11 others who have also expressed an interest since September and October are the ones she has been meeting with each week who are just trying to understand the licensing process.

Of the 11 potential applicants, four are for marijuana producer class 1; two are for marijuana producer Both Class 3; one is for marijuana processor; two are for marijuana wholesaler; one is for marijuana retailer; and one is for marijuana lounge class 1. The total projected application fees from these 11 interested people would amount to \$8,000, she said.

"So it's really been booming in the sense that people are very much interested despite the current pandemic issues that we've been going through, the economic downturn that we're currently having," she said.

She said if these 11 are found compliance, that's another \$31,500 in projected total license fee. "And that's another additional 11 businesses that can open. We're only talking about the application and licensing fees here. But we're not even considering yet what are the taxes that we're going to be able to provide the Commonwealth," she said.

Sablan said this could be something that's complimen-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI Cannabis Commission managing director Monique Sablan holds a presentation about the commission and the cannabis industry yesterday before the Senate Standing Committee on Cannabis and Gaming chaired by Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan). Also in the photo are members of the commission.

tary to the other industries here, especially once it takes off.

She earlier disclosed that they have already approved nine applications for home-grown marijuana.

The managing director also discussed enforcement and challenges the commission is facing, and other issues in her presentation.

Senate Standing Committee on Cannabis and Gaming chair Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) called the meeting with the CNMI Cannabis Commission to discuss matter related to its operations.

2 defendants in Hillbroom lawsuit reach a settlement

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Two of the three defendants in the lawsuit of Junior Larry Hillbroom who filed cross-claims against each other have reached a settlement.

Barry Israel and Keith Waibel informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI in a conference last week that they have reached a settlement on all of their cross-claims against each other and are currently working on an agreement to have the cases dismissed.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Manglona ordered Israel and Waibel to file their agreement by Nov. 30.

Manglona also vacated the jury trial for the cross-claims that Israel and Waibel filed against each other and scheduled a status conference for Dec. 1.

David Lujan, the third defendant in the Hillbroom case, previously told the court that his third-party claims against Waibel are stayed pending the resolution of a settlement discussion with Hillbroom.

Lujan sued Waibel and other unnamed co-conspirators for indemnification, alleging that it was Waibel who was re-

sponsible for Hillbroom filing the lawsuit against him.

Israel sued Waibel for slander and libel, claiming that Waibel made defamatory statements against him intentionally and with malice.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Junior Larry Hillbroom, one of the four DNA-proven heirs of DHL Corp. founder Larry Lee Hillbloom, are suing Waibel, Israel, and Lujan for alleged fraud. Israel and Lujan represented Hillbroom when he was a minor in securing \$90 million from the Hillbloom estate. When he became an adult, Hillbroom sued his former lawyers for malpractice, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Hillbroom also sued his trustee, Waibel, for conspiracy.

Hillbroom alleged that the defendants committed extrinsic fraud on the Guam guardianship court by denying him a fair opportunity to challenge their 56% retainer.

DHL's Hillbloom died in a plane crash in 1995 near Saipan, leaving behind an estate estimated to be around \$600 million.

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High court rules in favor of OAG in petition vs Camacho ruling

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Office of the Attorney General in its petition for a writ of mandamus to vacate Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's order to compel premature discovery or evidence at a preliminary hearing.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said that even with consent of delay

from the defendant, CNMI law requires the swift disposition of a preliminary hearing, which is meant to establish probable cause.

"Our rules require a swift disposition of the preliminary hearing, the sole function of which is to establish probable cause. Though some disclosure is permissible in aid of the probable cause determination, the court's order exceeded this narrow scope. The petition for

writ of mandamus is granted," the court stated.

In addition, the court ordered that the preliminary hearing be carried out without delay.

"The [trial] court's overbroad order compelling production of all notes, statements, police reports, videos, etc., relevant to the determination of probable cause at the preliminary hearing is vacated and the preliminary hearing should be con-

ducted without further delay," the order stated.

In the case of Rudolph Rudolph, who is charged with three counts of sexual abuse of a minor, Camacho ordered the OAG to produce all tangible material used by law enforcement to establish probable cause in connection with the cross-examination of its witness.

The Commonwealth contended in its petition that discovery is beyond the scope of preliminary hearing.

It also asserted that the order was erroneous as a matter of law and

manifests a persistent disregard of applicable rules.

The Commonwealth further argued that the court's delay of the hearings violates the NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* from Chief Prosecutor John Bradley, he said the "strong ruling" by the Supreme Court restores the proper rule of law.

"We are grateful that the Supreme Court gave speedy consideration to the arguments by chief solicitor Robby Glass," he said.

VIRUS

From Page 1

from an ongoing study. A week ago, competitor Pfizer Inc. announced its own vaccine looked 90% effective—news that puts both companies on track to seek permission within weeks for emergency use in the U.S.

The results are "truly striking," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-diseases expert. "The vaccines that we're talking about, and vaccines to come, are really the light at the end of the tunnel."

A vaccine can't come fast enough, as virus cases topped 11 million in the U.S. over the weekend—1 million of them recorded in just the past week—and governors and mayors are ratcheting up restrictions ahead of Thanksgiving. The outbreak has killed more than 1.3 million people worldwide, over 246,000 of them in the U.S.

Stocks rallied on Wall Street and around the world on rising hopes that the global economy could start returning to normal in the coming months. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained more than 470 points, or 1.6%, to close at a record high of over 29,950. Moderna stock was up almost 10%.

Both vaccines require two shots, given several weeks apart. U.S. officials said they hope to have about 20 million Moderna doses and another 20 million of the vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioN-

Tech to use in late December.

Dr. Stephen Hoge, Moderna's president, welcomed the "really important milestone" but said having similar results from two different companies is what's most reassuring.

"That should give us all hope that actually a vaccine is going to be able to stop this pandemic and hopefully get us back to our lives," Hoge told The Associated Press. He added: "It won't be Moderna alone that solves this problem. It's going to require many vaccines" to meet the global demand.

If the Food and Drug Administration allows emergency use of Moderna's or Pfizer's candidate, there will be limited, rationed supplies before the end of the year.

Exactly who is first in line has yet to be decided. But Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said the hope is that enough doses are available by the end of January to vaccinate adults over 65, who are at the highest risk from the coronavirus, and health care workers. Fauci said it may take until spring or summer before anyone who is not high risk and wants a shot can get one.

Neal Browning of Bothell, Washington, who rolled up his sleeve back in March for the first testing of Moderna's vaccine in humans, said he is excited about Monday's "excellent news" but is still carefully wearing a mask and taking other precautions.

"I'm super happy to be a part of this and to try and help bring some kind of peace back to the world," Browning said. "I have a lot of hope."

The National Institutes of Health helped create the vaccine Moderna is manufacturing, and NIH's director, Dr. Francis Collins, said the two companies' parallel results give scientists "a lot of confidence that we're on the path towards having effective vaccines."

But "we're also at this really dark time," he warned, saying people can't let down their guard during the months it will take for doses of any vaccines cleared by the FDA to start reaching a large share of the population.

Moderna's vaccine is being studied in 30,000 volunteers who received either the real thing or a dummy shot. On Sunday, an independent monitoring board examined 95 infections that were recorded after volunteers' second shot. Only five of the illnesses were in people given the vaccine.

Earlier this year, Fauci said he would be happy with a COVID-19 vaccine that was 60% effective.

The study is continuing, and Moderna acknowledged the protection rate might change as more COVID-19 infections are detected. Also, it's too soon to know how long protection lasts. Both cautions apply to Pfizer's vaccine as well.

But Moderna's independent monitors reported some additional, promising tidbits: All 11 severe COVID-19 cases were among placebo recipients, and there were no significant safety concerns. The main side effects were fatigue, muscle aches and injection-site pain after the second dose.

The FDA issued the Emergency Use Authorization last Monday, Nov. 9, for bamlanivimab.

"We cannot, we must not let our guard down in the fight to contain the spread of the virus. We must remain vigilant in our fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our Marianas communities," said Sablan.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported that Guam's 99th COVID-19-related fatality occurred yesterday at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 1:04am. The patient was a 73-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GMH last Nov. 7 and was a known positive case.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero extended her condolences and stated the island cannot, and should not, lose hope in the fight against COVID-19.

She emphasized that the community should continue to wear a mask, social distance, and wash your hands. These simple actions can "save countless lives," she added.

mild to moderate symptoms and are at high risk for severe symptoms and hospitalization. The emergency-use authorization does not apply to patients who are already in the hospital due to COVID-19 or require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19.

One vial of bamlanivimab is equivalent to one treatment course, which is a series of treatment cycles that a person will go through. For example, treatment given for one week followed by three weeks of rest (no treatment) is one treatment cycle. When a treatment cycle is repeated multiple times on a regular schedule, it makes up a course of treatment.

Sablan said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans weekly allocations of the new drug based on the need of each state, territory, and freely associated states.

Sablan said that U.S. Congress made nearly \$10 billion available through the CARES Act and other emergency funding to support the rapid development of effective medical countermeasures, like bamlanivimab, to combat the coronavirus crisis.

KILILI

From Page 1

emergency use.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-Saipan) in a post on his Facebook account, the FDA issued an "Emergency Use Authorization for the COVID-19 treatment drug called "bamlanivimab," which Sablan described as "an investigational neutralizing antibody treatment for COVID-19."

According to the FDA website, bamlanivimab is authorized for patients with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds), and who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. This includes those who are 65 years of age or older, or who have certain chronic medical conditions. This means that health care providers are allowed to administer bamlanivimab only to COVID-19 patients who are not in the hospital and are experiencing

CEC

From Page 1

in Susupe Tuesday night, the CEC board certified the tabulation results as official.

Villagomez said their meeting started at 2pm and CEC staff went to U.S. Postal Service office at 3pm to collect the remaining batch of absentee votes, but only found six envelopes for a total of six ballots.

Last Thursday, CEC got over 300 ballots from the post office.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said the total number of remaining absentee ballots was 358, but the board rejected 167 of them, either because they were past the postmark deadline or they did not enclose their affidavit.

The CEC started tabulating at 3:30pm and completed the process at 5:45pm. "There's no problem. Everything went smoothly," Igitol said.

Excluding the remaining absentee ballots, there was a total of 12,919 who voted at the Nov. 3 general elections and all ballots were counted.

CEC said that 1,668 absentee ballots were sent out and that they received 1,064. Villagomez earlier said they have not received 604 absentee ballots.

DPL

From Page 1

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update on the lease negotiations with Hyatt, Deveney Dela Cruz, special assistant to DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo-Concepcion, said that in order for DPL to start the negotiation process for a new lease agreement, they must first receive an official proposal from the current lessee. Dela Cruz said DPL only received an official proposal packet from Hyatt's current lessee, Saipan Portopia Hotel Corp., last Oct 20, but the package was incomplete.

She said DPL met with Saipan Portopia and their lawyer, Stephen J. Nutting, last Nov. 5 to inform them of the missing documents.

"DPL is still awaiting the rest of their submission," Dela Cruz said.

Last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed that the government is waiting for Hyatt's official proposal.

Torres said that, for the purpose of the renewal process on any land lease agreement, especially in renewing 40-year leases, it would need to have

an appraisal of the property. Then there is an official proposal on what the investor needs to do and how much investment it plans to put in.

To his understanding and based on the last information he received, the appraisal has been done, but not the official proposal on what Hyatt would be investing and how that investment would go through.

"I've said in the beginning since Day 1 that I would like to see Hyatt get the extension," Torres said.

Hyatt's 40-year public land lease will expire in December 2021. The land lease of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which is located adjacent to Hyatt, is supposed to expire in June 2021, but it just got a new 40-year lease.

The recent enactment of Public Law 20-84 increases the terms of public land leases up to 40 years, plus an extension of 15 years, for a total of 55 years. It also authorizes certain public land leases to be amended and extend existing lease terms up to 55 years.

The law gives DPL the authority to negotiate new public land leases to certain existing lessees under new terms and considerations even without publishing a request for proposal.

Babauta is hands-on with Project HOPE

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To encourage more students to join the Project Healthy Oceans and People Empowerment, or Project HOPE, which seeks to nurture students' interest in marine biology, the Office of Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) is helping transports students from Precinct 4 to the Guma Sakman in Supe every Austerly Monday.

Babauta said she is doing this because she wants to make sure that students from the northern part of Saipan are able to take advantage of this opportunity since transportation is always an issue for their community and she wants to "fill the gap."

Babauta believes that Project HOPE is beneficial for the students because it can influence their behavior, even in the smallest way, that they

can learn more about coral reefs, the oceans, and working toward a sustainable environment and community.

Babauta, who is actively involved in Project HOPE, not only ferries the students; she also participates in activities, such as swimming with them.

Because the students in the program are from different schools, Babauta said she's seen the students grow and connect with one another. "It

takes a lot of time for them to just get comfortable with each other, even students attending the same school. [Connecting] is so important because they're going to be working together in the future, and hopefully even serve in the Legislature together," she added.

Babauta wants to encour-

age parents to be aware of opportunities or programs, that are available for the youth because the CNMI has more than a handful of educators



Babauta

and experts that are coming together to coordinate opportunities, such as Project HOPE, for the community.

As for projects in Precinct 4, Babauta has been busy getting ready for the launch of the Hope Garden, which is a community garden

behind the Tanapag Youth Center. Babauta is doing this in coordination with Northern Marianas College and Stellar Marianas. The fickle weather has been delaying the program's official launch.

Babauta wants to look into other programs that will encourage employment among the youth, especially those coming out of high school looking for jobs. She's working with Nicole Babauta at the Small Business Development to see how to create a program to help the youth in this aspect.

Tokio Marine obtains superior rating from AM Best

AM Best has affirmed the financial strength rating of A+ (Superior) and the long-term issuer credit rating of "aa-" of Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited (Guam). The outlook of these credit ratings is negative.

The ratings reflect TMPI's balance sheet strength, which AM Best categorizes as very strong, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management. The ratings also acknowledge the wide range of implicit and explicit support that TMPI receives from its parent, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

TMPI's risk-adjusted capitalization remains at the

strongest level in 2019, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio. The balance sheet strength assessment also is underpinned by the company's high quality assets and a conservative investment strategy. Its net underwriting leverage remains relatively high; however, the group accident and health business, which accounts for more than 90% of TMPI's underwriting portfolio, is considered to have low potential for volatility in general.

Notwithstanding a historical track record of positive and stable operating performance supported by the limited volatility and low expense structure of the group A&H line, TMPI reported a large net

loss in 2019, mainly driven by the deteriorated profitability in its key business account, the Guam government's health plan. Although the GovGuam account was not renewed for the 2020/2021 term, the continued negative rating outlooks reflect persistent pressure on TMPI's operating performance assessment, as its premium base will remain at a significantly lower level following the plan's non-renewal, which will subject its bottom line to greater vulnerability in large claim cases. In addition, the company faces an increasing expense burden from regulatory A&H industry fee payments in 2020 and tax obligations following the expiry of its corporate tax ex-

emption in April 2019. Various initiatives to secure underwriting stability and regain its top line are underway, such as a rate hike for commercial A&H accounts and expanding its share of non-GovGuam A&H accounts, as well as more prudent underwriting in the property/casualty segment.

Its underwriting margin turned favorable in the first half of 2020 mainly because of the exclusion of the unprofitable GovGuam plan, and reduced medical and auto claims amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, AM Best believes that further monitoring is necessary to ensure the sustainability of TMPI's strong operating performance to support its current operating performance assessment. In addition, AM Best also notes

the execution risk over the company's growth plan to restore its premium base without increasing potential bottom-line volatility.

TMPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of TMNF and its ultimate parent, Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc., is one of the largest Japanese non-life insurance groups. The company has a strong presence in the non-life market in Guam, mainly supported by its dominant position in the A&H segment. Although its market share declined materially following the non-renewal of the GovGuam plan, AM Best views that its presence in its domestic market remains solid, given the large volume of business from commercial A&H accounts.

Negative rating actions could occur if TMPI's bottom

line remains thin and volatile to a level that no longer demonstrates a positive distinction from its industry peers. Negative rating actions also may arise if support from TMNF is reduced to an extent that no longer supports the current level of enhancement.

AM Best is a global credit rating agency, news publisher and data analytics provider specializing in the insurance industry. Headquartered in the United States, the company does business in over 100 countries with regional offices in New York, London, Amsterdam, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mexico City.

Editor's Note: In the CNMI, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., is the general agent for Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance. (PR)



Request for Proposal for Financial Audit

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years, 2020, 2021, and 2022. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950 by December 15, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

- I. **Contents of Proposal:** The following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:
 - A. Title Page Containing
 1. RFP Subject
 2. Name of the Firm
 3. Local Address
 4. Telephone Number(s)
 5. Email address
 6. Name of contact person
 7. Submission date
- II. **Transmittal Letter:**
 - A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
 - B. State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
- III. **Firm Profile:** Provide a brief description of you firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accounts (CPA's).
- IV. **Proposal Evaluation Criteria:** The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.
 - A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
 1. Audit coverage
 2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
 - B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
 1. Size and structure of the firm
 2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
 3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
 - C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered
 1. Qualifications of the audit team
 2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team
 - D. Audit Fee
- V. **Audit Administration Matters:**
 - A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
 - B. Audit Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials
 1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
 - C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on January 15, 2021.
 - D. The audit field work must be completed by April 15, 2021.
 - E. The draft audit report must be completed by May 15, 2021.
 - F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2021.
- VI. **Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at the Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.



HOW TO WRITE A BUSINESS PLAN

DATE: November 19, 2020

TIME: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

FREE OF CHARGE



**Nicole Babauta,
CNMI SBDC
Director/ Business
Advisor**

SUPPORTED BY



TO REGISTER:

**[HTTPS://PISSBDCN.ECENTER
DIRECT.COM/EVENTS/4664](https://pissbdcnecenter.direct.com/events/4664)**

**For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call
CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018.**

This training will be conducted via Zoom. Upon registration you will be given the Zoom Meeting ID and Password to be able to join the webinar training. Please note that you will need a laptop or iPad to join.

Disclaimer: The CNMI Small Business Development Center (CNMI SBDC) is a member of the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (PISBDCN). PISBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact CNMI SBDC Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Navy recognizes standout employees in the Pacific

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific recently announced the 2020 Employee, Supervisor, and Team of the Year winners in the Pacific Area of Responsibility.

The award recipients include Edwin Leonin, employee of the year from NAVFAC Far East; Kathie Beverly, supervisor of the year from NAVFAC Southwest; and the Design and Construction 4 Team, team of the year from NAVFAC Southwest.

“I am so proud of our 2020 ESTOY winners!” said NAVFAC Pacific commander Rear

Adm. John Adametz. “Their contributions to the NAVFAC mission across the Pacific have been nothing short of impressive. From Edwin Leonin’s waterfront engineering expertise at Public Works Department Yokosuka, to the incredible earthquake recovery efforts at Naval Air Weapons Stations China Lake where Kathie Beverly selflessly volunteered her environmental leadership abilities, and the NAVFAC Southwest DC4 team rapidly developing emergent military construction program-

ming documents, I am honored and humbled to serve alongside these superstars.”

The NAVFAC Pacific AO Awards Program seeks to recognize employees who exemplify the NAVFAC culture, with its focus on work performance, achievement, productivity, leadership, teamwork, service excellence, innovation, and initiative.

“Thank you for setting the example for all of us to emulate, and congratulations on a job well done,” said Adametz. “Hard earned and well deserved!”

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Leonin, electrical engineer, PWD Yokosuka of NAVFAC Far East, is recognized as the absolute waterfront engineering expert for Kanto Plains Naval facilities. His flawless coordination and execution of five contracts at Dry Dock 6, along with his persistent engagement with leadership led to all work being completed a full two months ahead of schedule. Under a compressed timeline with high Pacific Fleet visibility, he developed a modification package for open secret certification of

command spaces. Leonin’s exemplary leadership and innovative thinking to partner with the Facilities Engineering and Acquisitions Department contractor team made Tank 108 the first Kanto Plains tank to be returned to operations. Leonin displays consummate poise and professionalism, is held in the highest esteem, and has earned complete trust of his customers, PWD leadership and peers.

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Beverly, manager, Environmental Compliance and Services at NAVFAC Southwest, demonstrated exceptional leadership during and after the July 2019 earthquakes by selflessly volunteering to spend months away from her home and family to support the NAWS China Lake team as their Installation Environmental Program director at the PWD. She was continually on-site for over four months, from June to October 2019 and volunteered to serve in this remote and hard to fill location because she knew the team was suffering from an extremely high vacancy rate and low morale. She immediately tackled long-standing personnel issues and utilized her acute interpersonal skills, built up over years of cultivating trust with members of the team, to turn the office around into a high-performing team that could respond effectively to the major disasters they faced when the earthquakes struck. Upon her return to San Diego, Kathie continued her exemplary leadership in managing the core compliance and services team to provide outstanding services to the Navy,

Nation, and our warfighters.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Design and Construction 4 Team of NAVFAC Southwest consists of 64 employees. Following the two earthquakes at NAWS China Lake, NAVFAC Southwest deployed in-house engineers and architects and contracted with a structural engineering architectural-engineering firm to inspect, assess, label and document the damages of over 1,300 facilities. A requirements operational planning team composed of DC4 engineers, architects, and cost engineers determined the estimated cost for repairs based on the documented damages to the facilities and developed overall programmatic costs for the earthquake recovery effort. NAVFAC Southwest contracted with AE firms to assist with the development of budget ready MILCON DD1391s and to develop DD1391s and Design-Build Request for Proposals RFPs for repair/replacement projects. For fiscal year 2020 and 2021, projects valued over \$2 billion were submitted, the final design authority was issued, contracts were awarded and the first project was solicited in January 2020.

NAVFAC is the technical expert and acquisition authority for naval shore facilities, base operating support, and expeditionary engineering systems. NAVFAC Pacific’s mission is to plan, build and maintain sustainable facilities while expertly delivering utilities, engineering, environmental and acquisition services to our supported commanders. We are the engineering link between the shore and Fleet within the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.. (USN)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Green Light Inc. dba The Chronic

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Light, Inc. dba The Chronic proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Retail” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 5th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Green Light Inc. dba The Lounge 9629

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Light, Inc. dba The Lounge 9629 proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Lounge” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan Select, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Select, LLC is proposing to renovate & occupy a preexisting a two-storey warehouse structure for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 108-E8 in Tanapag village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2000-2-3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

DPS responds to an overturned vessel near Mañagaha

On Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, at about 6:46pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call regarding an overturned vessel near the waters of Mañagaha Island. The caller stated that the two occupants onboard had been assisted by a nearby vessel and were being brought into the Smiling Cove Marina. The DPS jet-boat and the *Zodiac 1* rescue boat were launched to respond to the overturned vessel.

At about 6:55pm, an at-

tempt to turn the vessel upright was made but did not succeed. By 7:20pm, the jet-boat and the *Zodiac 1* began towing the vessel into Smiling Cove. At about 7:50pm, both rescue boats arrived with the overturned vessel.

Police learned that the vessel's two occupants were leaving Mañagaha with friends on three separate boats. As they were leaving the island, the vessel caught a wake and before the operator was able to

shift the boat into neutral, the boat's bow went underwater before overturning. They were picked up by a nearby boat and were brought into the Smiling Cove as they called for police assistance.

DPS encourages boaters to call into Channel 16 on your VHF radio when you need help, or if you would like to report a distressed vessel. If you would like to report a crime or an emergency call 911 anytime. **(PR)**

Public warned of high surf, rip current

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6pm today, Wednesday, while a high rip current risk is in effect through today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7 to 10 feet are occurring along north facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Expect dangerous rip currents along any reefs that receive north to northeast swell throughout today, Wednesday.

This is creating dangerous swimming conditions, especially in and around any cuts in the reef. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Localized beach erosion is possible due to high astro-

nomical tides. High tides will occur late morning and around 8pm to 9pm in the evening.

The public and inexperienced ocean goers should remain out of the water due to strong rip currents. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. **(PR)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TMS sets virtual PTSA meeting

Tanapag Middle School wishes all parents/guardians a Happy National Parental Involvement Day this Thursday, Nov. 19! TMS also invites all Tataga parents and guardians to this school year's first virtual Parents Teachers Association Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, from 5pm to 6pm. Please see student emails for the meeting link, flyers, and more information. **(PR)**

4.8-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 2:55pm on Nov. 17, 2020, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.522°N 146.082°E in the Pagan region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. **(PR)**

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in November. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Nov. 19 – Marketing to the federal government** – The government

buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ **Nov. 25 – How to get Women-Owned Small Business-certified** – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

Register on the PTAC website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. **(PR)**

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio

Barrigada on the following dates and times: Nov. 18 to 19, from 9am to 11:55pm

Blank ammunition is authorized for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on the following dates and times: Nov. 18 to 19, from 9am to 11:55pm

Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Mariners and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean at coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E on the following dates and times:

Nov. 18 to 19, from 9am to 11:55pm

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of these events and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Air Force and Navy is conducting live fire exercises in Warning Area 517 up to Nov. 20, from 8am to 9pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area from 2pm to 9pm for the duration of these events and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in Outer Apra Harbor and Reserve Craft Beach up to Nov. 19, from 10am to 8pm. Marine vessels and the public are advised to remain clear of units training in the area.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training in the vicinity of Pago Bay up to Nov. 20, from 9am to 4pm. The public and mariners are advised to be aware of military personnel training in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on Nov. 19, from 12:05am to 11:55pm. The public and marine vessels are advised to remain clear of units training in the area.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo to Pacific. **(PR)**



'FEED THE HUNGRY'

The Saipan Unity Lions Club distributed care packages last Nov. 14, under its "Feed the Hungry" Program. The distribution, led by SULC president Lion Alicia Barbo and FVDG Atoy Banting, was held at Graphics Enterprise on Middle Road. Each care package contained rice, a variety of canned goods, and butane gas and benefited 100 recipients.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting



Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center | Susupe
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/20/2020 and 11/06/2020 Zoning Board Regular Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (*not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings*)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3333** – Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor a 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2000-2-3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3438** – Green Light, Inc. dba The Chronic proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3439** – Green Light, Inc. dba The Lounge 9629 proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3386** – Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3403** – Saipan Select, LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 108-E8 in the village of Tanapag. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

C. New Business

1. Rezone Applications
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

D. Miscellaneous

1. Next Meeting – January 7th
2. Other Matters

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMdQxdkFRlUjU09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Dec02

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Staying home for Thanksgiving won't kill you. COVID-19 might

The fatigue is understandable. We're tired of all this, of wearing masks and not seeing people and weddings being canceled and is school in person or online this week? The daily reports are numbing. Infections climbing. Hospitalizations. More death.

And with the holidays coming up, we're ready to be done with it. Thanksgiving won't be the same online as it would be in person. How risky can one dinner be?

Pretty risky, it turns out. Investigators from the state Department of Public Health looked at how coronavirus was spreading in Connecticut and found that one of the key drivers behind the dramatic surge in infections, hospitalizations and deaths are small family gatherings—cookouts, dinners, modest celebrations.

The second wave is hitting us hard. During Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont's Thursday coronavirus briefing, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, said he expects the current surge won't peak nationally until January.

"This is the final stage of the acute phase of this epidemic that we need to get through," Gottlieb said. "Unfortunately, it's going to be the hardest phase. We're in for a very difficult two or three months."

And with family gatherings facilitating the spread of the virus, those next two to three months will be an incredibly risky stretch due to the understandable temptation to drop our guard for the sake of seeing family and friends over the holidays.

It's time to rethink those plans.

Sure it'd be great seeing mom and dad, grandma and grandpa. We are all desperate for the in-person companionship of the people we care about. But it's more important to make sure mom, dad, grandma and grandpa will be around to celebrate when we have finally put the worst of this pandemic behind us. That may sound harsh, but it's the reality we are facing.

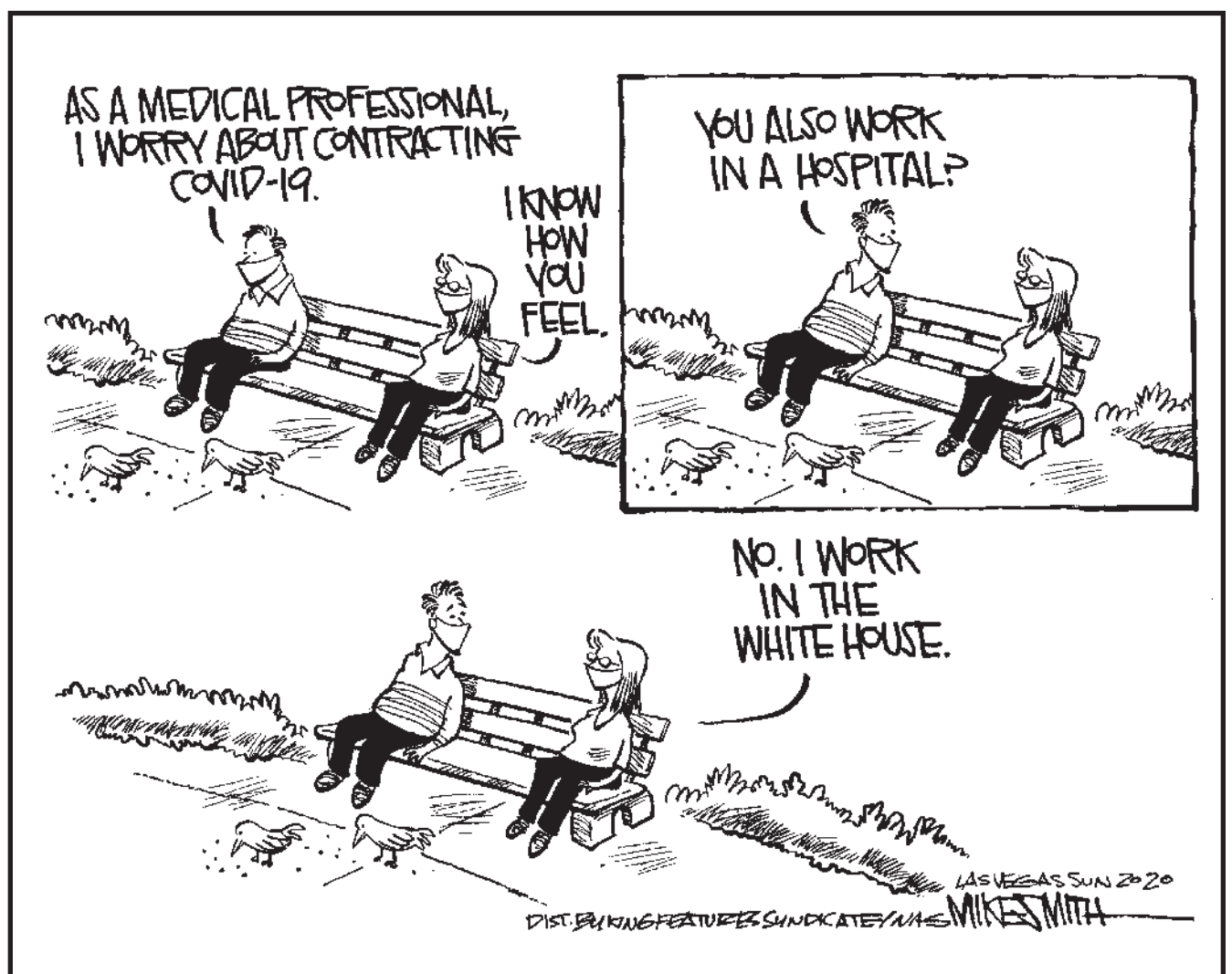
We weren't prepared when coronavirus arrived last spring. Public officials were likening COVID-19 to the flu, there wasn't enough PPE to adequately protect caregivers in hospitals and nursing homes and our testing abilities were woefully deficient.

We know better now, in some ways. We've succeeded in containing mass outbreaks in places like nursing homes through better infection control strategies. Most, though not all, of us are smart about wearing masks.

But coronavirus is like water. It will find a way. And the way it is finding now is by spreading among younger people who may experience only mild symptoms—or no symptoms at all. They may not end up in the hospital, but they are carrying it to people who are older, sicker and at risk of ending up in the hospital or dying.

"The safest thing to do is do (Thanksgiving) on Zoom," said Dr. Tom Balczak, chief medical officer at Yale New Haven Hospital, who also warned that a negative test shortly

See STAYING on Next Page



A post-9/11 transition

Today, what we really want is to be looking hopefully ahead in this most troubling time in America's modern history. But to do that, we must first hit rewind.

We need to scroll back and learn an apparently lost lesson from a frightening crisis during a recent presidential transition—a potential Inauguration Day crisis that was kept so quiet that most Americans probably still don't know about it.

The reason we need to rewind is that we apparently need to remind all those who still have access to the Oval Office that transitions are special times where America's enemies may consider us fractured and vulnerable. Which means it is the one time where we must show the world we are, indeed, one nation. And that isn't what we've been seeing this past week.

Our just-defeated President Donald Trump, in an act of reckless petulance, has just jeopardized our national security by showing the world that he is blocking the man who apparently defeated him, our likely president-elect Joe Biden, from being able to access security documents he needs to properly and promptly begin his presidential transition. Also Trump has been rushing around, ordering his lawyers to file baseless lawsuits claiming state elections were rigged against him—and firing top defense and homeland security officials in these final days, seemingly just to settle old scores of perceived insufficient loyalty.

And Trump's transition actions may well have endangered our national security by tempting terrorists and enemy spooks who no doubt prey to catch us when we are most vulnerable.

Rewind and remind—or discover for the first time: Shortly before the 2009 Inauguration, an unmentioned terror threat suddenly dominated the full attention of the outgoing and incoming top tiers of President George W. Bush and President-elect Barack Obama. Intelligence sources had picked up word that some extremists from Somalia were reported to have crossed the Canada border and entered the United States. The extremists were reportedly planning to detonate explosives somewhere near the National Mall during the inauguration.

From the outset, Bush had made sure he would be facilitating a flawless transition with the incoming Obama team. After all, he knew how it felt to be publicly blindsided. Bush's own transition had been disastrously delayed after Election Day 2000, while he and Democrat Al Gore wallowed through the Florida recount that ended up in the U.S. Supreme Court. As the 9/11 Commission Report concluded:

"The dispute over the election and the 36-day delay cut in half the normal transition period. Given that a presidential election in the United States brings wholesale change in personnel, this

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



loss of time hampered the new administration in identifying, recruiting, clearing, and obtaining Senate confirmation of key appointees."

Top Bush and Obama national security officials had met in the Situation Room to review all that was known. In a remarkable account, The New York Times' Peter Baker reported in 2010 that it was Obama's soon-to-be secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, who focused upon a key decision that needed to be made. If Obama is delivering his inaugural address and a bomb goes off anywhere on the National Mall, she asked: "Is the Secret Service going to whisk him off the podium so the American people see their incoming president disappear in the middle of the inaugural address? I don't think so."

Obama national security adviser John Brennan reportedly noted that it could be a situation where one Somali faction was spreading a false report about what another faction wanted to do. And in the end, after 72 tense hours, Bush's intelligence team, working with Obama's, got the answer that relieved everyone. Brennan was right. It turned out to be a false alarm.

Last Sept. 11, the 9/11 Commission's co-chairs, former New Jersey former Gov. Thomas Kean, a Republican, and former Rep. Lee Hamilton, a Democrat, jointly declared: "Since a catastrophic attack can occur with little or no notice as we experienced on 9/11, we concluded that the government must seek to minimize disruption of national security policymaking during the change of administrations."

Today, with the COVID-19 pandemic spiking just about everywhere, Americans understand that we all have a lot to fear that has nothing to do with such trivialities as politics. What we cannot abide is the harm forced upon us by a president who has so lost touch with reality that he puts us at risk by playing politics with presidential transitioning—just because he can.

The United States constitutional democracy has been America's gift to the world. Then again, our national continuity has always been our greatest gift to ourselves.

Valuing cleaners during a pandemic

It's become cliché to say that COVID-19 has changed everything. The way we relate to each other, how we shop, where we eat.

But as a lifelong trade unionist who has spent decades negotiating contracts on behalf of factory workers, truck drivers, nurses and cleaners, I can tell you one thing that hasn't changed—when workers join together in unions, everybody wins.

We are seeing this very clearly in the cleaning sector. Cleaners across the world have long been underpaid, unappreciated and undervalued. But now they have found a renewed sense of pride and determination to claim their rightful title as essential—especially as their vital role in the fight against COVID-19 has become evident.

These often-invisible workers start at dawn or finish late into the night, and they are all at a high risk of contracting the coronavirus and spreading it to their families. Yet many are still paid at or below the minimum wage. They are also often migrants, women, undocumented and employed on precarious contracts lacking sick pay and other social protections.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've felt prouder and more courageous," says Isabel Cortes, a cleaner in Peru and union member who has been protesting for decent working conditions. "We

feel like lionesses because we've stood up to the disease. Our neighbors have called us heroes. We've been on the frontline of this crisis, and now we deserve more."

This pride is well-earned. More than ever, our world relies on the skills and effort of workers like Isabel to create a safe environment to work, study, entertain, and rest. Millions of cleaners worldwide are making a vital contribution to reducing the risk of coronavirus contamination.

Across the globe, the heightened importance of cleanliness has increased the value of the services provided by cleaners. But this hasn't always led to higher pay and benefits. That's why the role of unions has become increasingly important.

Unions around the world are bringing this cause to the attention of their employers, their government, and their public. In Belgium, cleaners have won greater access to social benefits, and those working in sensitive facilities—like hospitals and nursing homes—have received an elevated work classification.

In Sweden and Germany, unions are fighting for a salary increase. In Argentina, where thousands of cleaners have fallen sick, their union's health and safety programs are helping ensure that personal protective equipment is efficiently distributed.

By **CHRISTY HOFFMAN**

Tribune News Service



Christy Hoffman is the General Secretary of UNI Global Union, which represents more than 20 million workers from more than 150 different countries. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

Others are still fighting. Most cleaners are not covered by collective bargaining agreements. In many cases, it is left up to public authorities to enforce minimum wage and social protection laws. In others, they are left to fend for themselves.

While there's no question the coronavirus has changed the way we work, it has yet to change how we value it.

Cleaners are a vital part of our public health systems. And it's time for employers to stop pushing them to the bottom rung on the economic ladder. They deserve to be part of the foundation of a new recovery that benefits all.

The blue trickle

Ordinarily, it's not possible for a party to win the presidency and have a bad election night, but the Democrats managed it.

Pending the outcome of two Senate runoffs in Georgia, Joe Biden looks set to become a caretaker president who won't be signing any legislation that doesn't pass muster in Mitch McConnell's Senate first.

He isn't riding into the White House on the strength of a Blue Wave, as was so often predicted, but a Blue Trickle that saw Democrats fail to win control of the Senate (they need to win both Georgia seats in January to get to a 50-50 tie), suffer shocking setbacks in the House, and lose ground in state legislative races after investing heavily in them.

Biden clearly owes his victory (which President Donald Trump, of course, is still contesting) in large part to Trump's personal unpopularity. In races where the president wasn't on the ballot, in contrast, the weakness of the Democratic Party stood exposed and it paid the price.

If the former vice president succeeded in making the presidential race a referendum on Trump, Republicans succeeded in making House races, in effect, a referendum on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and the woke socialism that animates Democratic activists and draws so much attention. (Nancy Pelosi posed for a

cover of Rolling Stone with members of the Squad, and Ocasio-Cortez is on the cover of the latest issue of Vanity Fair.)

Bolstered by the media, Democrats were so certain they were riding the tide of history to inevitable pickups in the House that they didn't pause to take note of the unpopularity of their agenda and the left of their party.

Republicans took the socialist label and hung it around the neck of Democrats. It was especially devastating in South Florida, where voters from Cuba, Venezuela and Colombia came to the United States to flee socialism. Republicans knocked out incumbent Democratic Reps. Donna Shalala and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell in heavily Hispanic districts.

In New York, Republicans used the most idiotic slogan of our times, "defund the police," and the state's law curtailing cash bail to pummel Democrats on law and order, and likely defeat two House incumbents. The GOP wielded the Democrats' anti-fossil fuel agenda in the Southwest and Biden's tax increase in California to defend their seats and make pickups across the map.

When all is said and done, Nancy Pelosi's House majority may be the smallest in 20 years, and it will certainly be highly vulnerable in 2022.

It is usually the losing side that is beset by a bitter civil war after an election. Make no mistake, there is plenty of that to come

By **RICH LOWRY**

(c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

in the Republican Party. But despite winning the White House, the Democrats will be riven by recriminations and fights over the path ahead.

It is always a danger for a political party to believe its own PR. That's a risk especially hard for Democrats to avoid when practically every instrument of the culture celebrates left-wing causes and works to create the sense that their triumph is inexorable.

This year, Democrats thought they were marching from strength to strength, when they were really on thin ice with an electorate that was prepared to reject Trump, but not to empower a party that has elevated socialists and outlandish ideas from defunding the police to the Green New Deal.

An election that America can be proud of

All in all, it could have been worse.

In fact, when I finally went to bed in the wee hours of Nov. 4, I thought that Election 2020 was turning into the same nightmare as Election 2016, when contrary to the polls Donald Trump was duly elected president of the United States.

I thought that four more years of Trump would be bad for our already bungled response to Pandemic 2020. I thought that during a second Trump term our standing in the world would continue to diminish and our relations with our allies would be further damaged. I thought four more years of Trump's tweeting would destroy any possibility of some level of decency and civility in our discourse.

The one thing that I did not think, however, was that the Republicans had somehow rigged the elections in order to award Trump with victory.

STAYING

From Page 8

before a visit doesn't guarantee that someone is COVID-free because of the incubation period of the disease.

So drive a plate over to someone's house and drop it outside. Tell stories online. Pick a time to all watch the same movie wherever you may be.

But most of all, make this Thanksgiving about next Thanksgiving. So when we can celebrate safely together, we're all still around to savor that day.

By the next morning, things were looking better, and not just because Joe Biden's chances were beginning to improve in some swing states. Americans had turned out to vote, both by mail and in person. There were few disruptions at polling places, and all across the nation ballots were being quietly tallied.

Over the course of the next week our nation accomplished that most democratic of exercises—a free and fair election—in the face of very challenging circumstances: an out-of-control pandemic, a political party that has done its best to keep voters away from the polls and an administration that has worked hard to throw the legitimacy of the election in doubt.

Our national pride in this accomplishment should not be diminished by the loser's refusal to accept the election's results. The democratic process is bigger than this president.

How bogus are Trump's claims of voter fraud? Down here in Texas, evidence is in such short supply that our lieutenant governor has offered up to \$1 million of his campaign funds to anyone who can come up with an example. None or few have responded.

But I turn to Texas to defend the legitimacy of this election, as well, in the person of my sister-in-law.

Linda is an avid liberal, but her dedication to the democratic process is much greater than her dedication to the Democratic Party. Therefore on Nov. 3 she put in a 15-hour day as an election judge in a polling precinct in her south Texas county of Victoria.

Like many thousands of poll workers who labored in thousands of precincts across the nation, Linda is of retirement age, which implies her willingness to face a certain amount of risk from the pandemic during a long day at a polling station.

Being an election judge isn't easy. Problems came up all day long, and they had to be solved, one by one. Voters showed up at

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

the wrong precinct. A few voters' registrations couldn't be verified. Some required provisional ballots. And Linda had to ask two voters to turn their Trump masks inside out to comply with electioneering law. She asked politely and firmly, and they politely complied.






That long day in Linda's tiny precinct was duplicated thousands of times on Nov. 3. Our nation is filled with people—Democrats and Republicans—willing to do the hard, grass-roots work of democracy. The process is made inherently honest by the integrity of poll workers like these. As Linda put it in a letter to her local paper: "Widespread fraud is almost impossible in a decentralized system that requires the cooperative efforts of thousands and thousands of ordinary people."

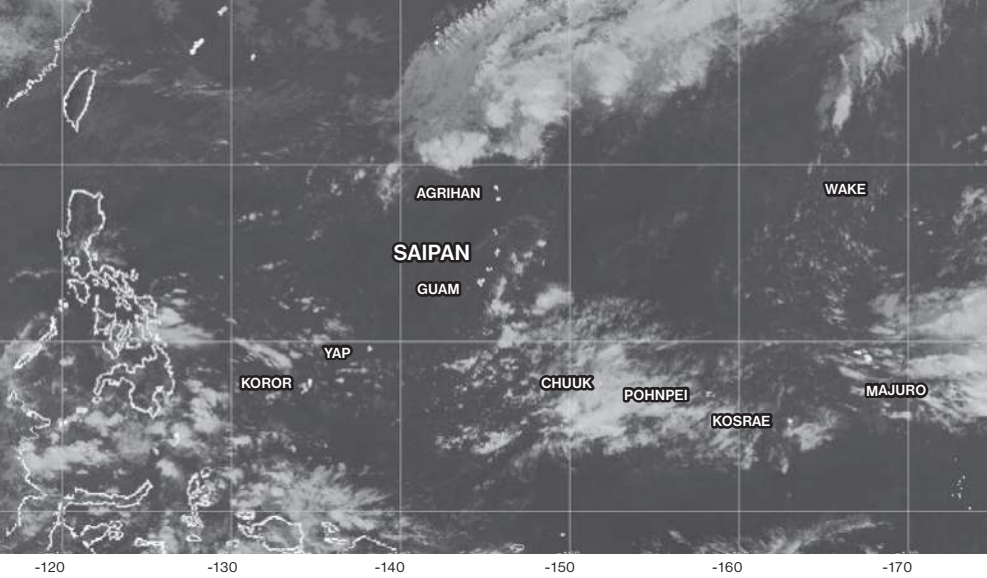
More than 150 million votes were cast on Nov. 3. About 130 of them passed through Linda's polling station in south Texas. She will vouch for the validity of all of them.

What did she get for her long day's work? Victoria County chose Trump over Biden, 68% to 30. Some vote rigging.

But it's her work and that of thousands of other "ordinary people" that make democracy possible in our country. We must never allow their integrity to be impugned by a sore loser.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy Monday. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy Monday. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy Monday. Isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show a weak trade disturbance moving through the Marianas this morning with patchy showers and mostly cloudy skies. Buoys and altimetry show combined seas between 5 and 7 feet with most energy from the north to north-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	82° / 78°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:13 AM	8:43 PM	-
Thursday	10:14 AM	9:43 PM	-
Friday	11:09 AM	10:41 PM	-
Saturday	11:58 AM	11:37 PM	-
Sunday	12:42 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	63° / 55°			
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°			
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	86° / 72°			
Honolulu	Windy	84° / 75°			
London	Showers	61° / 55°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 65°			
Manila	Showers	86° / 79°			
Melbourne	Rain	75° / 50°			
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°			
New York	Sunny	72° / 54°			
Osaka	Rain	63° / 61°			
Paris	Showers	70° / 54°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 59°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°			
Salem	Sunny	74° / 50°			
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 50°			
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	70° / 48°			
Tokyo	Rain	55° / 54°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	71° / 48°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:37 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.71	
10:47 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87	
4:18 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13	
8:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020							
SAIPAN TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Pacific Islands Club opens Kid's Care Program

By **BEA CABRERA**

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Pacific Island Club in San Antonio is not only a fun place where families can have an instant vacation during the weekends, it is also a safe haven for children on weekdays to help them with school. Part of PIC's social responsibility is to help the community thus, the birth of PIC Kid's Care Program that is open to children from 6 to 16 years old.

According to Sales & Marketing manager Katy Hung, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual learning at home has become the new normal. "PIC has noticed that the 'new normal' format is not easy for everyone and some families are having a difficult time to balance work life and monitoring their kids' virtual learning schedule. This is why PIC is pleased to announce the Kid's Care Program that is dedicated to solve these concerns.

"This new program aims to support children and parents adapt to the 'new normal' of school life. Our redesigned conference room will become



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Kid's Care Program is open to children from 6 to 16 years old.

a learning pod offering virtual learning supervision to keeping children focused on their coursework with little or no interruption," Hung added.

With the PIC Kid's Care Program, children can do remote learning under adult supervision and in a very secured and safe environment. For their part, parents can go

to work without any worries. "The PIC Kid's Care Program is from Monday to Friday and parents can enroll their children full days or half days.

Full-day Package is from 8am to 3pm with lunch for only \$20 per day. For half days, the Morning Package is from 8am to 12noon with lunch for only \$15 per day, and the

Afternoon Package is from 11:30am to 3pm without lunch for only \$12 per day. We have an Hourly Cruiser Package which is \$35 for two hours," Hung said.

"All packages come complete with high-speed internet connectivity, document print-

ing services and dedicated desk space 6 to 10 feet away from other participants in a clean, secure environment. During the supervised virtual learning in the morning, our Kid's Care supervisors will help direct students through their schoolwork sessions and will not provide any kind of tutoring or daycare assistance. In the afternoon, Clubmates will organize dynamic activities with the kids before pickup," Hung added.

The commitment of five days is needed to avail of the

Full-day Package, Morning Package, and Afternoon Package and additional 5% discount is available for monthly Full-day Package subscribers. Participants need to bring their own learning devices (laptop, headphone etc.) and other educational materials. Desktop monitors will be available on request.

Reservation is required at least 48 hours in advance due to capacity limitations which is 10 students per session. For reservations or inquiries, call (670) 234-7976 extension #2.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
 Website: www.developcni.com

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2021-CDA-02-RFP**

Closing Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 • Time: 9:00 a.m.
**"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDITS FOR
FISCAL YEARS 2021 and 2022"**

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
 Executive Director

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

2nd virus vaccine shows striking success in US tests

A second experimental COVID-19 vaccine—this one from Moderna Inc.—yielded extraordinarily strong early results Monday, another badly needed dose of hope as the pandemic enters a terrible new phase.

Moderna said its vaccine appears to be 94.5% effective, according to preliminary data from an ongoing study. A week ago, competitor Pfizer Inc. announced its own vaccine looked 90% effective — news that puts both companies on track to seek permission within weeks for emergency use in the U.S.

The results are "truly striking," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-diseases expert. "The vaccines that we're talking about, and vaccines to come, are really the light at the end of the tunnel."

A vaccine can't come fast enough, as virus cases topped 11 million in the U.S. over the weekend — 1 million of them recorded in just the past week —and governors and mayors are ratcheting up restrictions ahead of Thanksgiving. The outbreak has killed more than 1.3 million people worldwide, over 246,000 of them in the U.S.

Stocks rallied on Wall Street and around the world on rising hopes that the global economy could start returning to normal in the coming months. The

Dow Jones Industrial Average gained more than 470 points, or 1.6%, to close at a record high of over 29,950. Moderna stock was up almost 10%.

Both vaccines require two shots, given several weeks

apart. U.S. officials said they hope to have about 20 million Moderna doses and another 20 million of the vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech to use in late December. **(AP)**

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at **9:00am, Friday, November 20, 2020**, at the **Commonwealth Casino Commission Office, Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan**. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. Adoption of Agenda**
- V. Adoption of Minutes**
- VI. Commonwealth Casino Commission Update**
- VII. IPI Status Update**
- VIII. Old Business**
 - a. Community Benefit Fund
 - b. Online Gaming
- IX. Executive Session**
- X. Adjournment**

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-004

Opening Date: October 30, 2020
Closing Date: November 19, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Assistant Petroleum Compliance Manager "AM"
Petroleum Compliance
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$96,657.60 per annum, Exempt / Ungraded
2 Year Contract
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Petroleum Compliance Manager (aka Technical Manager for Oil) or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Position shall be primarily responsible for oversight of projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management in support of the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- The AM shall assist the Petroleum and Compliance Manager in overseeing all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations, compliance activities and project deliverables on a daily basis, as required by stipulated order.
- The AM shall also function as the Acting Petroleum Compliance Manager during the absence or non-availability of the Petroleum Compliance Manager and will be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding section 311 Clean Water Act compliance, including representation in the US Federal court and before other regulatory agencies.
- The Executive Director may delegate authority to the AM during the absence of the Petroleum Compliance Manager including authority to make decisions for the management and operations of oil related items required by stipulated order. These examples of duties are not exhaustive, and the incumbent may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.
- Additional projects for power generation infrastructure development may be requested of AM directly, by Executive Director.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: A Bachelor's degree in Engineering or other natural science as Chemistry, Biology or Environmental Studies. 10 years of project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills. A minimum of three (3) years in oil spill, prevention, preparedness, and response. Work in environmental assessment as related to power plant operations and extensive knowledge of BECC and EPA regulations. 5 years of experience in preparing bid documents or request for quotations and proposals. 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Project management principles; Contract management principles; Procurement practices; Engineering principles related to utilities and power generation; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Environmental compliance principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Prioritizing and assigning work activities and projects (based on assignment); Reviewing and evaluating contract work, plans and specifications; Monitoring contractual compliance related to budget, schedules, and quality; Evaluating contract proposals and providing award recommendations; Serving as liaison with management and regulatory agencies; Identifying issues and presenting recommendations; Preparing scope of work documentation for proposal requests; Preparing status and progress reports; Providing required data and updates for regulatory purposes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

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Nation

‘More people may die’: Biden urges Trump to aid transition

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden on Monday warned of dire consequences if President Donald Trump and his administration continue to refuse to coordinate with his transition team on the coronavirus pandemic and block briefings on national security, policy issues and vaccine plans.

The remarks marked Biden’s toughest comments to date on Trump’s failure to acknowledge his election loss and cooperate with the incoming administration for a peaceful transfer of power.

“More people may die if we don’t coordinate,” Biden told reporters during a news conference in Wilmington, Delaware.

Biden and his aides — and a small but growing group of Republicans — have emphasized the importance of being briefed on White House efforts to control the pandemic and distribute prospective vaccines. The Trump administration is working on its own distribution plan, while Biden’s chief of staff indicated his transition team will proceed with their own planning separately because of the obstruction.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said it’s “absolutely crucial that the apparent president-elect and his team have full access to the planning that has gone on” for vaccine distribution.

“It is no easy matter” to dis-



tribute a vaccine, Collins said, so “it’s absolutely imperative for public health, that all of the planning that’s gone on for which the current administration deserves credit, be shared with the new administration.”

Collins’ remarks were echoed Monday by Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Last week, a larger group of Republicans in Congress called on the Trump administration to allow Biden to begin receiving

national security briefings.

The outgoing president has refused so far to bend to pressure from Democrats or Republicans as he continues to dispute his loss to Biden, who has surpassed the 270 electoral vote threshold to become president and is leading Trump by more than 5.5 million votes nationally.

Cooperation between the outgoing and incoming administrations, traditionally a key component to the peaceful transfer

of power in the United States, takes on heightened significance this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, which is escalating dramatically heading into the holiday season.

Biden called the vaccine distribution a “huge, huge undertaking,” and said that if his team has to wait until he takes office to dig into the government’s distribution plan, they’ll be “behind, over a month, month and a half.”

Before taking questions, Biden outlined his plans to alleviate inequality and boost the U.S. economy but said that any structural reforms depended first on reining in the pandemic and delivering more immediate relief.

“Once we shut down the virus and deliver economic relief to workers and businesses, then we can start to build back better than before,” he said.

Biden has vowed to spend trillions of dollars to reinvigo-

rate U.S. manufacturing, expand health care coverage and combat climate change, among other priorities. But his chief priority remains controlling the pandemic, which is surging to record levels and forcing state and local leaders to implement new rounds of restrictions on local businesses.

The president-elect has so far tried to sidestep difficult questions about whether he might support a short-term national lockdown to arrest the surge of coronavirus cases. Since defeating Trump, Biden has devoted most of his public remarks to encouraging Americans to wear masks and embrace social distancing measures.

But members of his coronavirus advisory board have been more specific. One member, Michael Osterholm, recently suggested a four- to six-week national lockdown with financial aid for Americans whose livelihoods would be affected. He later walked back the remarks and was rebutted by two other members of the panel who said a widespread lockdown shouldn’t be under consideration.

to a series of brief but chaotic brawls that left several injured and one person with stab wounds.

Washington’s police chief praised the conduct of his department, saying it was “quite remarkable” that there wasn’t more violence, injuries or property damage.

“I’m not sure another agency in the country could have handled that,” Chief Peter Newsham said Monday. “I couldn’t be more proud.”

Newsham said eight firearms were confiscated, mostly handguns but also including what he called “in between a rifle and a handgun. It’s a very unique weapon.”

Meanwhile, both sides accused the Metropolitan Police Department of failing to protect them.

Trump has personally weighed in on the back-and-forth on social media, retweeting several video clips of his supporters being harassed and challenging the D.C. police to “do your job and don’t hold back!!!”

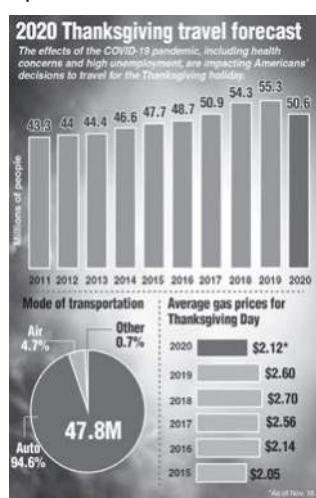
Governors ratchet up restrictions ahead of Thanksgiving

From California to Pennsylvania, governors and mayors across the U.S. are ratcheting up COVID-19 restrictions amid the record-shattering resurgence of the virus that is all but certain to get worse because of holiday travel and family gatherings over Thanksgiving.

Leaders are closing businesses or curtailing hours and other operations, and they are ordering or imploring people to stay home and keep their distance from others to help stem a rising tide of infections that threatens to overwhelm the health care system.

“I must again pull back the reins,” New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Monday as he restricted indoor gatherings to 10 people, down from 25. “It gives me no joy.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced he is pulling the “emergency brake” on efforts to reopen the economy, saying the state is experiencing the fastest growth in cases yet, and if left unchecked, it will lead to “catastrophic outcomes.” The move closes many nonessential indoor



businesses and requires the wearing of masks outside homes, with limited exceptions.

The tightening came as Moderna Inc. announced that its experimental coronavirus vaccine appears to be over 94% effective, based on early results. A week ago Pfizer disclosed similar findings with its own formula.

The news raised hopes that at least two vaccines against the scourge could win emergency authorization and become available in the U.S.

before the end of 2020.

A record-breaking nearly 70,000 people were hospitalized with the coronavirus in the U.S. as of Sunday, 13,000 more than a week earlier, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Deaths in the U.S. are running at more than 1,100 per day on average, an increase of over 50% from early October.

The virus is blamed for more than 246,000 deaths and over 11 million confirmed infections in the the U.S.

Thanksgiving was on the minds of leaders nationwide as they enacted tougher restrictions amid fears that the holiday will lead to more infections.

“We don’t really want to see mamaw at Thanksgiving and bury her by Christmas,” said Dr. Mark Horne, president of the Mississippi State Medical Association. “It’s going to happen. You’re going to say ‘Hi’ at Thanksgiving, ‘It was so great to see you,’ and you’re going to either be visiting by FaceTime in the ICU or planning a small funeral before Christmas.”

After Trump march: Arrests, accusations and COVID-19 fines

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a weekend with dozens of arrests and scattered clashes between supporters and opponents of President Donald Trump, both sides took to social media to accuse the other of instigating violence. Meanwhile, a long-standing D.C. bar stands in danger of losing its liquor license after becoming a haven for Trump supporters who refused to follow local COVID-19 restrictions.

All told, 21 people were arrested, including one juvenile, for charges that included disorderly conduct, inciting violence and assault.

The violence took place Saturday night after a largely peaceful day in which 10,000 to 15,000 Trump supporters rallied behind the president’s unfounded claims of massive irregularities and voting fraud. Democrat Joe Biden won the election, but Trump has not conceded.

There is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election. In fact, both Republican and Democratic elec-

tion officials have said the election went well and international observers confirmed no serious irregularities.

Around sunset Saturday, a group of around 200 counterprotesters who had been marching through the city coalesced a block from Black Lives Matter Plaza, which police had sealed off. This group, which included Black Lives Matter members and people associated with antifa, sought to prevent Trump supporters from entering the area.

The few scattered groups of Trump supporters who did attempt to enter were harassed, doused with water and in some cases had their flags and red “Make America Great Again” hats snatched and burned. Police, using bicycles to form walls, physically separated the groups multiple times. Later, a larger, more organized group of Trump supporters, including members of the far-right fascist group Proud Boys, attempted to confront the counterprotesters, leading

World

UN: Over 25K fleeing Ethiopia conflict reach Sudan

CAIRO (AP)—Ethiopia's growing conflict has resulted in more than 25,300 refugees fleeing the Tigray region into Sudan, the U.N. refugee agency said Monday, as fighting spilled beyond Ethiopia's borders and threatened to inflame the Horn of Africa region.

More than 5,000 refugees arrived in Sudan's border provinces of Kassala and al-Qadarif on Sunday, the highest single-day number of arrivals since the start of the conflict in Tigray earlier this month, the UNHCR said.

Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced on Nov. 4 a military offensive against the regional government in Tigray in response to an attack by Tigray forces. Each government regards the other as illegal after a months-long falling out as Abiy marginalized the once-dominant Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Abiy's government on Monday again refused international pleas for dialogue and asked for more time. "Me-

diation at this point will only incentivize impunity," senior official Redwan Hussein told reporters, even as the leaders of Uganda and Kenya urged the warring sides to find a peaceful end to the political and humanitarian crisis.

Abiy also said his government is ready to "receive and reintegrate" the refugees. "We vow to our innocent civilians that have fled, to protect their property, enable humanitarian support by the (federal forces) and guarantee their peace upon return."

But many refugees say they fled under attack from those federal forces.

Most of the refugees arriving in Sudan are children and women who walked long distances on rugged terrain to reach safety. They arrive exhausted, hungry and thirsty, having had to cross a river by boat or in some cases by swimming. The river, known as the Tekeze in Ethiopia and the Setit in Sudan, divides the eastern Sudanese areas of Lugdi and Hamdayet.

Authorities in Kassala and al-Qadarif were already overwhelmed and urged U.N. agencies to speed up assistance to deal with a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. Officials said last week they expected up to 200,000 refugees to enter Sudan.

Activist Abdel-Rahman Awad Abdel-Rahman in al-Qadarif said there were "many, many" Ethiopians unregistered with the U.N. refugee agency. He said they arrived with almost nothing and that a "huge amount of assistance" is needed urgently to deal with the growing numbers.

Al-Qadarif Gov. Suliman Ali said Monday the response by U.N. agencies and the international community was "slow" compared to the pace of refugees arriving in the province.

The UNHCR said it was working with Sudanese authorities to "mobilize resources to provide life-saving assistance services to the new arrivals."

Filippo Grandi, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, appealed Monday for assistance to help the Sudanese government respond to the situation on its borders.

"Resources are urgently needed to meet the basic needs of the refugees," Grandi said in a tweet.

The influx of refugees adds to Sudan's economic and security burdens. The transitional government has already been struggling under the weight of decades of U.S. sanctions and mismanagement under former ruler Omar al-Bashir. The former dictator, who came to power in an Islamist-backed military coup in 1989, was ousted in 2019.

Eastern Sudan, which bor-

ders Ethiopia's Tigray region, was the scene of bouts of tribal violence in recent months that claimed dozens of lives.

Fleeing Ethiopians were being moved to the Um Rakouba refugee camp but it suffers from food shortages, said Abdel-Baset Wadaa, head of the camp. "We don't have a problem with water, but we have a lack of food and difficulty providing meals. We need support," he said.

Refugees gave The Associated Press witness accounts of the conflict as the region was nearly entirely cut off from the rest of the world. Communications are down, airports are closed and roads are blocked.

At the Um Rakouba camp, Tigrian refugee Marwahid Tefani said she was to give birth when the conflict started, but then she was forced to flee to Sudan. "Now I have passed my due date and conditions are bad," she said.

Refugee Burhan Males said he fled his hometown of Humera in Tigray after it came under attack from what he believes were both Eritrean and Ethiopian forces.

NZ enacts new mask rules as precaution

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Starting Thursday, New Zealanders will be legally required to wear masks on public transport in Auckland and on planes nationwide.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Virus Response Minister Chris Hipkins announced the new rules on Monday after meeting with senior lawmakers.

The country has been largely successful in eliminating the virus but has experienced several small outbreaks in Auckland, the latest one after a military worker at a hotel where travelers returning from abroad are being quarantined got infected.

Ardern said the new rules were precautionary.

"New Zealand remains in a unique position globally. We have economic and personal freedoms that few other countries enjoy," she said. "But these freedoms are under increased threat as COVID surges in the world around us."

Japan's foreign minister says Tokyo looks to deepen US ties

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Monday that Japan hopes to deepen its alliance with the United States under President-elect Joe Biden and do more to get its ally continuously committed to regional security and other key international issues.

Motegi, discussing Japanese diplomacy at the Japan National Press Club, said his country hopes to pursue cooperation with the Biden administration to achieve the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," or FOIP, vision of economic and security cooperation in the face of China's growing assertiveness.

With the U.S. increasingly focusing on how to rebuild its social divide and economy, Japan will have to take more of a share of the Japan-U.S. security alliance, Motegi said.

This would involve not just more spending for hosting the

The rules don't apply to children under age 12 or passengers taking taxis or Ubers, although their drivers will be required to wear masks.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ IOC President Thomas Bach says Olympic "participants" and fans arriving for next year's postponed Tokyo Games will be encouraged to be vaccinated to protect the Japanese public. Bach made the statement after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. It was Bach's first meeting with Suga and his first trip to Japan since the Olympics were postponed almost eight months ago. Next year's Olympics are scheduled to open on July 23. Bach says "this makes us all very confident that we can have spectators in the Olympic stadia next year and that spectators will enjoy a safe environment." Bach suggested the IOC would cover at least some of the costs

of vaccination. But he said he did not yet know how much the one-year delay would cost. Reports in Japan estimate it will be \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

■ India has registered 30,548 new coronavirus cases, the fewest in the last four months but amid growing concerns about the latest surge in the capital, New Delhi. India has now recorded a total of 8.84 million cases, second behind the U.S. The Health Ministry said Monday that the country was showing a trend of declining average daily cases over the last two months. The ministry also reported 435 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 130,070. India's daily cases have seen a steady decline since the middle of September, but New Delhi is now recording more new infections than any other state. Experts have attributed the surge to the festival season, dangerous pollution levels and a dip in temperatures.

50,000-plus American troops in Japan under the countries' bilateral pact, but would also mean an increase of Japan's own military capability and spending, experts say.

At a time when the United States is largely focusing on internal politics, "How to secure the U.S. commitment to international security, climate change and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision is a major diplomatic challenge for Japan," Motegi said.

Japan has been pursuing the FOIP with the U.S. and they have formed a four-way cooperation that also includes Australia and India. They are trying to bring in other countries in Southeast Asia and beyond that share concerns about China's increasing assertiveness in the region.

Japan is opposed to any Chinese attempts to "unilaterally change the status quo"

by force in the East and South China Seas and has promoted the FOIP concept with the United States to counter China's growing influence. Japan has its own territorial disputes with China over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea that Beijing also claims.

With the U.S.-China row expected to continue under the Biden administration, Japan, as a key economic partner and neighbor of China, also hopes to play a role in encouraging Beijing to play by international rules and act responsibly as a global giant, Motegi said.


Japan's new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, is carrying on the policy and is trying to get more countries to join.

Japan has also been setting up strategic defense partnerships with other Asia-Pacific nations such as Australia, as well as Europe.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Luis Gonzaga Yul

MAY 18, 1936 – NOVEMBER 09, 2020

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Priscilla Ruth Leewes Yul

Children: Lawrence Flocha Yul
Justina Ochen Yul (Joycilla)
Thomas Ramangmow Yul

Brother: Thomas Ramangmow & †Maria Hocog Ramangmow

Brothers and Sisters in-law: Estanistaus Thingag
Patrick Pong
†Justina Gudiiy
Clement Galthingag
†Aloy Wag

Funeral services will be held on Friday, November 20, 2020. Our beloved †Luis will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel from 7:00am to 8:00am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 8:30 am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
PRISCILLA RUTH LEEWES YUL, CHILDREN & FAMILY

Good Housekeeping

Smaller turkeys. Yams to go. Or a Thanksgiving lobster? COVID-19 will transform holiday meals.

By ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—Leslie Highberger usually celebrates Thanksgiving with her husband's extended family, at a different destination each year. Last year they all met in Naples, Florida. Twenty people gathered for the fall feast.

This year there will be no flying or large gatherings as COVID-19 cases rise and fears of spreading the virus to loved ones cloud the holiday. Highberger, 30, and her husband plan to have two Thanksgivings close to home, each with about six people. One dinner will be with her husband's father in Wisconsin and the second with her parents in the Chicago suburbs.

"They will still want to do the whole turkey thing to make it feel like a traditional Thanksgiving," said the Roscoe Village resident. "It will be a lot of food."

As families grapple with how to spend Thanksgiving in the midst of a pandemic, many are planning for smaller soirees.

Just 29% of consumers said they plan to host or attend a Thanksgiving meal with family they don't live with this season, down from 48% last year, according to Chicago-based market research firm IRI. More than a third said they will prepare a meal just for themselves or their household, up from 27% last year. A median of five people will attend, while last year it was eight.

Food businesses are scrambling to guess what that downsizing means for dinner tables on what is traditionally the biggest eating event of the year.

Farmers face higher demand for smaller turkeys. High-end restaurants are introducing Thanksgiving feasts to go. Grocers are keeping lobster at the ready in case the unusual year elicits unusual ideas for main courses.

The more intimate affairs don't portend lower sales. In fact, Thanksgiving 2020 — or Zoomsgiving, for those making it virtual — is likely to be bountiful for the food industry as smaller, more dispersed gatherings translate to more meals overall.

Orders for Thanksgiving-related items are double what they normally are at Irv and Shelly's Fresh Picks, a home delivery service of fresh food



A freezer case full of frozen turkeys at Jewel Osco on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020 in River Forest.

that sources directly from local farmers, said co-owner Irv Cernauskas.

It is offering 4-pound boneless turkey breasts, which serve six people, to cater to smaller tables. Sales of smaller turkeys and boneless turkey breasts have doubled, while sales of large 25-pound turkeys are down 25%, Cernauskas said.

The holiday demand comes amid a banner year for the Niles-based business. It saw so many new customers looking for alternative ways to buy food when grocery shelves were wiped clean during the early days of pandemic that it had to shut off registration for a few weeks. Now those customers are continuing to favor the direct-to-consumer model for their holiday food shopping.

"We are expecting holiday week to be at least twice what it usually is," Cernauskas said.

Jewel-Osco also expects bigger holiday sales—and more crowded aisles—as people travel less and shuttered restaurant dining rooms scuttle holiday dining out plans.

But it's unclear if shoppers will stick to tradition or start new ones or what product sizes they'll want for smaller gatherings, and that has made it hard to plan, said Mark Bristow, meat and seafood sales manager at Jewel-Osco, Chicago's largest grocery chain by store count.

To prepare for all scenarios, Jewel-Osco bought close to 20% more turkeys and hams than previous years, including 30% more hens under 16 pounds, Bristow said.

It also is ready with prime rib roasts, pork roasts, sausage, ground beef and meatless options in case customers want to try something different. It stocked up on lobster tails, crab

legs and shrimp, and anticipates selling more seafood this year than any on record.

The greatest angst for many retailers is ensuring there is enough product available. COVID-19 outbreaks at meat processing plants in April and May came during prime time for turkey processing, leading to harvest delays and heavier birds, and supply of smaller birds is tight.

As a result, Jewel-Osco will not be making its usual donations of turkeys to charities during the holidays, Bristow said.

Shoppers should expect shortages and higher prices for smaller turkeys and turkey breast meat, said Christine McCracken, executive director of animal protein at Rabobank, a bank focused on agriculture. Prices for whole birds are up 15% from a year ago, she said.

The shift to smaller birds has thrown a wrench in the plans of some turkey producers.

Gunthorp Farms, a pasture-raised poultry and pork farm in LaGrange, Indiana, underestimated orders for smaller frozen turkeys and is slaughtering some birds earlier than planned to satisfy demand.

Usually, half of the more than 6,000 turkeys it sells for Thanksgiving are fresh, harvested a week before the holiday, but this year more than two-thirds will be frozen as it fills orders for 2,000 extra smaller frozen birds. There will be fewer turkeys left to cut into parts.

"This will be the most whole turkeys that we have ever sold," Gunthorp said.

At Kauffman Turkey Farms in Waterman, Illinois, 60 miles west of Chicago, President Robert Kauffman said he hoped the pandemic would have dissipated by the holidays so he planned for



Chef Eric Williams, owner of Virtue restaurant is taking out roasted turkeys from the oven in his kitchen in Chicago on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020. Virtue, the southern American restaurant in Hyde Park is offering a Thanksgiving feast complete with turkey, candied yams, pecan pie, and cornbread stuffing. Eric Williams is testing turkey recipes to make sure they travel well and have proper reheating instructions.

the same number and size of turkeys as usual. He sells his HoKa brand birds both to walk-in customers as well as retailers.

Now people are asking for smaller turkeys, but he usually reserves the 8- to 10-pounders for food bank donations and he doesn't want to renege on that commitment. He is taking a wait-and-see approach.

"I expect it's going to be a whole lot more like normal than people think," he said.

Meanwhile, Bell & Evans, a premium poultry brand that sells to higher-end retailers like Whole Foods, sold all of its smaller 8- to 14-pound turkeys but has plenty of 24-pounders left, said fourth-generation owner Scott Sechler. Families can always ask their butcher cut the bigger birds in half to serve smaller tables, he said.

Sechler also expects to sell more chickens for Thanksgiving than ever before as people break out their air fryers to cook for smaller parties.

For many people, maintaining the turkey tradition is important as they seek comfort during this uncomfortable year.

Gabriela Contreras, 43, usually gathers with nearly 80 relatives for Thanksgiving — they have to rent a hall — but this year she plans to cook dinner at home for her immediate family of 13.

The Mexican American family traditionally cooks turkey and tamales and will do the same this year, just less of it, she said.

"It's different," said Contreras, who lives in Logan Square. "But we'll chime in on FaceTime with grandma."

For others, the nontraditional nature of the holiday is an opportunity to experiment with untraditional spreads.

Wild Alaskan Co., a month-

ly direct-to-consumer subscription service for sustainably caught Alaskan seafood, created a Thanksgiving menu that suggests steamed Dungeness crab as a main course rather than turkey, or Wild Alaska Pollock fish pie in place of stuffing. The specialty items can be added a la carte to members' monthly boxes of fish filets, which start at \$132 for 12 portions.

"Part of the push is to make this year memorable in ways that are happy and different and eclipse the COVID nightmare a little bit," said Monica Haim, co-owner of the company with her husband, Arron Kallenberg. "There is something about sitting around the dinner table and cracking crab legs with the people you love."

A Thanksgiving seafood feast isn't unusual for founder and CEO Kallenberg, who comes from three generations of commercial fishermen who traditionally featured sockeye salmon as the holiday's centerpiece. But more people may be willing to try new things. Wild Alaskan quadrupled its subscriber base this year, to 130,000 people, and Chicago is one of its largest markets.

Some people preparing for a Thanksgiving without family would rather not cook at all — or don't know how to.

Pete's Fresh Market is pushing its catering service of prepared Thanksgiving dinners — \$79.99 for a 16- to 20-pound roasted turkey, three sides and a pie — and expects a 20% increase in demand, said Chief Operating Officer Joe Kolavo.

"Our biggest concern is the pickup of those meals," Kolavo said. "Everyone wants them in the same pickup window."

All manner of restaurants, eager to keep their doors open

and workers employed, are offering takeout Thanksgiving feasts that offer homestyle tradition without the effort.

Alinea, the three-Michelin-star destination in Lincoln Park, is selling a \$325 package, serving four, that includes a free-range turkey, compound butter, herbs and spices and detailed instructions for cooking the bird, plus ready-made sides including roasted garlic and sage stuffing and butternut squash soup.

Handlebar, a vegan mainstay in Wicker Park, is offering a dinner that includes a roasted vegetable pot pie and green bean casserole for \$23.75 per person.

At Virtue in Hyde Park, chef-owner Erick Williams has been testing recipes, both at the restaurant and at home to mimic the kitchen equipment customers are likely to have, so he can provide fail-safe instructions for reheating his inaugural Thanksgiving dinner.

The southern meal includes a 15-pound roasted turkey, collard greens, cranberry sauce, candied yams and pecan pie. It costs \$189 and feeds four to six people.

Williams said he usually spends the holiday serving food to the homeless, but this year his focus is on the families who can't see loved ones. Some people may want to buy dinners for elderly parents and drop it off at their door.

"It's driven by the thought of people not being able to share a meal, or having to share one virtually and not really knowing how to adequately cook, or only having one dish they know how to produce," he said.

Customers have expressed gratitude for the option, Williams said. "We're definitely going to sell out."

Life & Style

Rapper Benny the Butcher shot in robbery attempt in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—New York rapper Benny the Butcher was shot during a robbery attempt outside of a store in Houston, authorities said Sunday.

Houston Police spokes-

woman Jodi Silva said the 35-year-old performer, whose real name is Jeremie Pennick, was shot in the leg around 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon in the parking lot of a Walmart

on the southwest side of the city. As Pennick stepped out of his Rolls Royce, she said five individuals wearing masks approached he and two others who were with him, demanding their chains.

The trio began taking off their jewelry but were not moving fast enough for one of the suspects, who subsequently shot the rapper, Silva added.

She said the suspects fled the scene and Pennick was taken to the hospital. He's in

stable condition and expected to survive. The people with him during the shooting were not wounded.

Silva said the suspects are at large and an investigation is under way. A description of the suspects was not immediately released, but investigators said they were seen in a Chevy Malibu.

A representative for Pennick didn't respond to a request for comment.

The rapper from Buffalo,

New York is part of the hip-hop group Griselda and last month released his second studio album, "Burden of Proof." He also recently signed a management deal with Roc Nation, an entertainment agency founded by superstar rapper and entrepreneur Jay-Z, according to Spotify.

Pennick is at least the third rapper in less than a week to become the victim of gun violence in Texas.

Hours before the incident

involving Pennick, another hip-hop artist, Boosie Badazz, whose real name is Torrence Hatch, was also shot in the leg. It occurred just a day after Hatch attended a vigil for slain Dallas rapper Mo3, who was shot and killed last Wednesday during a daytime attack on a highway in his hometown. The 38-year-old native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, told his fans in a Facebook post Sunday that he was okay.

Donnie Wahlberg again leaves \$2,020 tip to inspire giving

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP)—Actor Donnie Wahlberg recently left a \$2,020 tip at a Massachusetts restaurant, continuing his habit of leaving generous gratuities to brighten the days of wait staff.



Wahlberg

The "Band of Brothers" and "Blue Bloods" actor and former member of boyband New Kids on the Block left the tip on a \$35.27 lunchtime bill at Marshland 3A, a restaurant located in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 7.

A photo of the receipt post-

ed by the restaurant on Facebook reads #2020TipChallenge, a hashtag that encourages people to tip generously.

"A very special thank you to our friend @donniwahlberg!", the restaurant wrote in its post. "When asked about it all he said was 'who's up next?!'"

Wahlberg, a Boston native, left a \$2,020 tip at an Illinois IHOP earlier this year and in 2017, left a \$2,000 tip at a Waffle House in North Carolina.

David Copperfield halts Vegas show after staffer gets virus

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Illusionist David Copperfield is suspending his Las Vegas stage show after a crew member tested positive for COVID-19.



Copperfield

The Las Vegas Review Journal reported Monday that the legendary magician has "no idea yet" when his production at MGM Grand will resume.

According to the newspaper, an internal email from MGM Resorts International officials on Friday said one

of Copperfield's illusion techs had been exposed to the virus.

Copperfield confirmed the backstage crew member's diagnosis on Sunday. In a statement, Copperfield said his entire crew would be tested again.

His stage show was one of several residency productions across MGM Resorts that reopened Nov. 6.

The company said on its website that affected ticketholders will be offered refunds or exchanges.

Family: Comedian Sinbad recovering from recent stroke

NEW YORK (AP)—The family of Sinbad says the comedian-actor is recovering from a recent stroke.

The Adkins family says in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday that "it is out of sincere love that we share Sinbad, our beloved husband and father, is recovering from

a recent stroke.

"Sinbad is a light source of love and joy for many generations. While he is beginning his road to recovery, we are faithful and optimistic that he will bring laughter into



Sinbad

our hearts soon," the statement continued.

The 64-year-old Sinbad, born David Adkins, is known for his stand-up work and appearances in the sitcoms "A Different World" and "The Sinbad Show."

The entertainer has also appeared in several movies.

"Our family thanks you in advance for your love and support and ask for continued prayers for his healing. We also ask that you please respect our privacy during this time," the family statement read.

Hollywood stars complete takeover of Welsh club Wrexham

Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney bought one of the world's oldest soccer teams on Monday and plan to document their first foray into the sport in a fly-on-the-wall TV show.

In a pinch-yourself moment for success-starved fans of Welsh club Wrexham, Reynolds and McElhenney completed a \$2.5 million takeover of a team that plays in the fifth tier of the English game.

"This is really happening," Reynolds, a Canadian-born actor best known for starring in the "Deadpool" movies, said at end of a short video announcing the purchase of

the 156-year-old club.

In a recent call with members of the club's supporters' trust, Reynolds and McElhenney described Wrexham as a "sleeping giant" and outlined their vision to make the team a "global force".

"You may have never heard of Wrexham, the Racecourse Ground or (sponsor) Ifor Williams," Reynolds said during Monday's announcement, putting on a Welsh accent, "but you will."

To increase the exposure of a club which is languishing in 14th place in the National League and has been outside English soccer's four main pro leagues since 2008, the

new owners are ready to use Wrexham in a behind-the-scenes TV series similar to those which have documented Manchester City and Tottenham in recent years.

"That's happened. We're documenting it," McElhenney, an American actor and director who was the creator of TV show "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," told supporters.

"We should be thinking about Wrexham the way Man U (Manchester United) thinks about Man U. Engage in club, communities. What a great way to do it," McElhenney said.

Amazon Prime was among

the first to reply to Wrexham's takeover announcement on Twitter, sending its congratulations to the actors.

Wrexham, which has been a fan-owned club since 2011, said the "RR McReynolds Company" will take 100% control—subject to confirmation by soccer authorities—following a vote among supporters in which more than 98% were in favor of the purchase by Reynolds and McElhenney.

"The Gang Buys A North Walian Football Club," read a tweet from Wrexham, a club from a town of about 65,000 people located near the north-west English border.

Confession to decades-old infidelity devastates wife

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my husband of 50 years confessed that 46 years ago, shortly after our son was born, he had a one-night stand with a total stranger he gave a ride to. She offered sex to him, and they went to a hotel for the brief encounter. He said he had totally forgotten about it until recently. He said he was very upset when he remembered, to the point that he felt sick.

He decided to tell me because he didn't want any secrets between us, and he asked me to forgive him. I forgave him, but I have been devastated ever since. He was a virgin when we married, and he has been unfaithful only that one time.

Abby, I cannot get over the fact that he did this to me. Not a single day goes by without the pain and the images of him being unfaithful in a marriage that I considered to be nearly perfect until then, take hold of me and make me very sad. I don't cry as much anymore, but the intensity of the pain hasn't subsided.

I haven't talked to anyone else about this. My husband loves me and has been very supportive, but it hasn't been enough to heal this pain. Your words of wisdom will be appreciated.

WOUNDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR WOUNDED: So your husband chose to ease his guilty conscience about this one-time infidelity 46 years ago and lay it on you. It would have been kinder had he "con-

fessed" to his spiritual adviser.

Focus on the fact that what happened (once) four years into your marriage is less relevant than the quality of the relationship you have shared during the ensuing nearly half-century. Because it has been two years since your husband told you and you are still in emotional pain, consider enlisting the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist. Talking it out may help these feelings to dissipate so you will no longer be haunted by the images in your head. Please do not wait to do this. Your physician is the first person to ask for a referral.

DEAR ABBY: I have read about how narcissistic, angry, depressed people shame others and spread lies on social media. May I take a moment to remind your readers that they do not HAVE to have social media? I stopped looking at it two years ago, after the death of my sister. People said some horrible things, so I decided enough is enough—I'm done. Not only have I not missed it, I'm much more peaceful and less stressed. I connect with people I love through email, texting and sometimes good old-fashioned letter-writing. That works for me.

FREEDOM REGAINED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FREEDOM REGAINED: I have received an increasing number of letters from people about problems in

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

which there is a social media element. For those who have become overwhelmed, I recommend limiting time spent online. For people who have been victimized by trolls, another solution is to simply block or delete them.

I'm sharing your suggestion for anyone who might need it—and I suspect there may be quite a few. However, disconnecting from social media does take more effort because the dropouts must decide not only who they wish to communicate with but also by what means to do it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

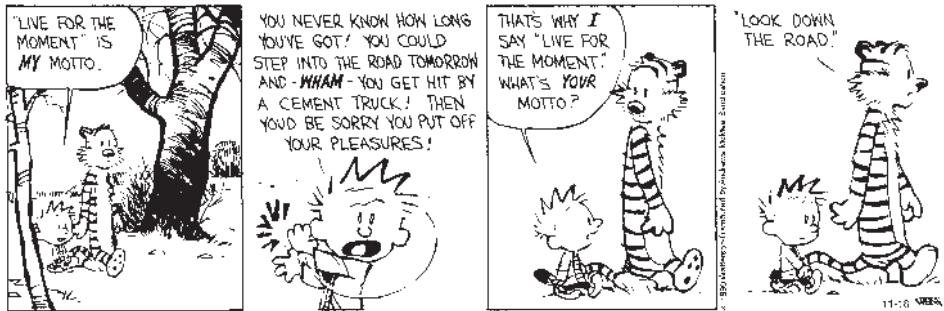
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

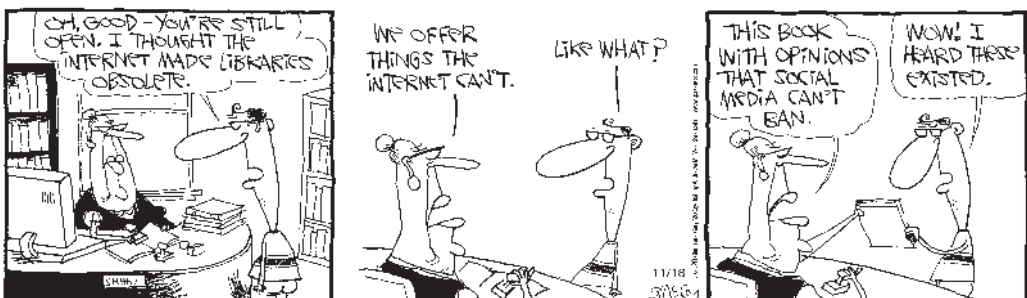
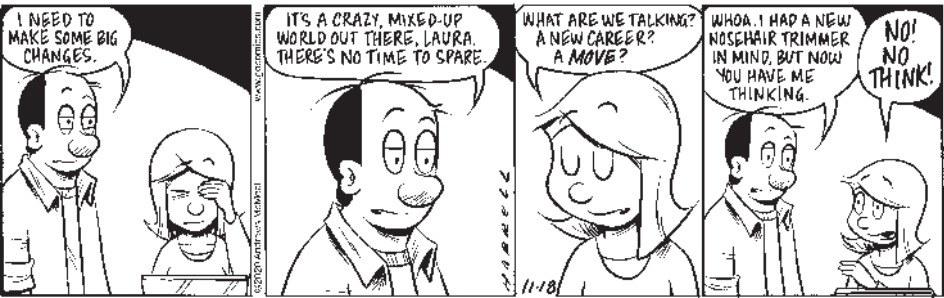


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Tropical tuber
- 5 Ewe's mate
- 8 "— girl!"
- 12 Sir Guinness
- 13 Half of bi-
- 14 Stentorian
- 15 Like a father-son talk, perhaps
- 17 Actor Jared
- 18 Ravi's instrument
- 19 Gap
- 21 Nullify
- 24 HBO rival
- 25 Highland hillside
- 28 'Ed Wood' star
- 30 Light touch
- 33 Swiss canton
- 34 "Seinfeld" character
- 35 Peanut product
- 36 Old map letters
- 37 Deposited
- 38 Slithery

DOWN

- 39 Uncle (Sp.)
- 41 Pepper dispenser
- 43 Mustang
- 46 Critic
- 50 Castle
- 51 Routine
- 54 Tom Joad, for one
- 55 Ms. Longoria
- 56 Candle part
- 57 Ringlet
- 58 Utter
- 59 Eyelid woe
- 1 Highland caps

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Damon Wayans Jr., 38; Chloe Sevigny, 46; Owen Wilson, 52; Oscar Nunez, 62.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative, and turn your thoughts into something tangible. Be the one to make the first move. Be innovative and ready to bring about change. Stop worrying about what you cannot change, and start making a difference where possible. Concentrate on health, finances and consistency. Step outside your comfort zone, and practice what you preach. Your numbers are 9, 15, 22, 27, 34, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid no-win emotional situations that are debilitating. Find a way to overcome controversy and build better relationships with others. How you present who you are, what you want and what you are willing to give will be instrumental in what you receive. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think your plans through, and refuse to let anyone tamper with your choices or the goals you set. Don't succumb to peer pressure or mind games. Follow your heart, and make positive adjustments as you advance. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay on track. If you let someone interfere, you'll fall short of your goal. Taking on someone's problems won't help them or you. Offer suggestions, but don't take over. Pay attention to someone you love in order to avoid hurt feelings. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your cool, regardless of what others do. Focus on bringing about positive change

at home and finding a way to handle your money, responsibilities and relationships with others without discord. A unique approach to life, love and happiness will pay off. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do what has to be done, and don't complain. If you do, you will meet with opposition. Get things done on time, and avoid a pointless debate. Less talk and more action will keep you out of trouble. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've got what it takes to win. Take on a challenge, embrace competition and make adjustments if you don't like what you see. Run the show, and don't feel you need to impress anyone other than yourself. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change what isn't working for you. Take better care of your home, family and the way you handle money matters. An emotional scene won't help you solve anything. Be honest, direct and willing to find common ground to avoid setbacks. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Knowledge is power. Gather information that enables you to bring about positive change. Let your heart and your emotions lead to taking action. Speak freely and passionately about what you want, and live life your way. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Remain focused on home improvements, keeping the peace and letting go of the past. Carrying emotional baggage won't help you build strong relationships or make better decisions. Make personal growth, less stress, and better health your priorities. Romance is featured. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

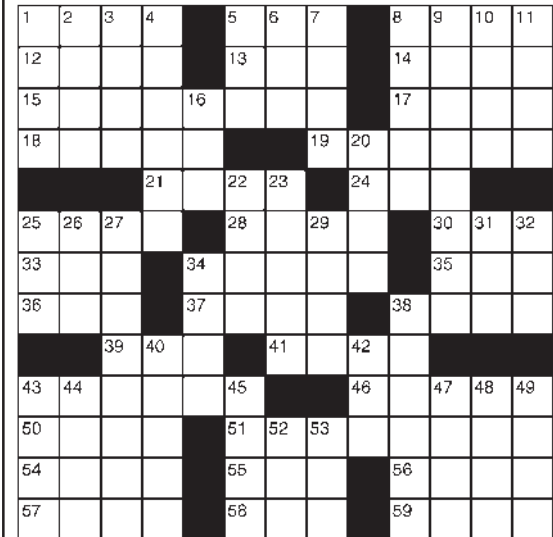
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Discuss your plans, get approval from those affected by the decisions you make and carry on with your itinerary. Letting others have a say will encourage them to support and help you achieve your goal. Someone's uncertainty will help you customize your plans. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look for better ways to handle or earn money. Consider your attributes and how you can get them up to speed with the changing world market. Address uncertainty regarding a contract, a problem you face with an institution or your health. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Call on old friends, and valuable information that will help change your life will be revealed. A last-minute change of plans will play in your favor. A favor you offer will lead to an unexpected reward. Financial gain is heading your way. *****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and possessive. You are mysterious and secretive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join [Eugenialast](https://twitter.com/Eugenialast) on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	8	6	2	7	4	3	9	1
9	7	3	8	5	1	4	6	2
4	1	2	3	9	6	5	8	7
1	3	4	5	6	9	7	2	8
6	9	7	4	2	8	1	3	5
8	2	5	7	1	3	6	4	9
3	6	1	9	8	5	2	7	4
2	4	9	1	3	7	8	5	6
7	5	8	6	4	2	9	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HEARTBURN RELIEF Solution: 9 letters

L R P E P P E R M I N T D L S
O O U P G S M U T G T I E R R
H L M O A A I U G U L S E I E
O A P S V F T A S U R G E F D
C I K T I E R N T T G K S H I
L D I U S B G I A I A E E M C
A S N R C G O E R L L R U Y P
L N Y E O N C T T P Y I D S E
M R E N I Y A P A X M N A P
O U F I S H C A T E B S O E I
N B L O A T I T N N P L L R L
D Y L K A O P E C T A T E G L
S N O M E L S A D O S Z M S O
E A N T A C I D S T H G I E W
N O I T S E G I D O O F A E S

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Alcohol, Almonds, Antacids, Apples, Bloat, Bragg, Burn, Chest, Cider, Clothing, Diet, Digestion, Dilution, Fish, Fry, Gaviscon, Greasy, Kaopectate, Lemon, Melon, Mustard, Mylanta, Nexium, Peppid, Peppermint, Pepto Bismol, Pillows, Posture, Pumpkin, Roalds, Safe, Seafood, Sodas, Spicy, Triggers, Turns, Turkey, Vegetables, Weight, Zantac

Yesterday's Answer: Wonderword

Purchase the NEW Treasury 38 in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 75 puzzles.)

CP3 trade works for Suns, Thunder



ARIZONA—Circumstances change in an instant.

In February, Kelly Oubre Jr.'s meniscus was torn. Through no action of his own, he set off a chain of events that eight months later sent him from the Phoenix Suns to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

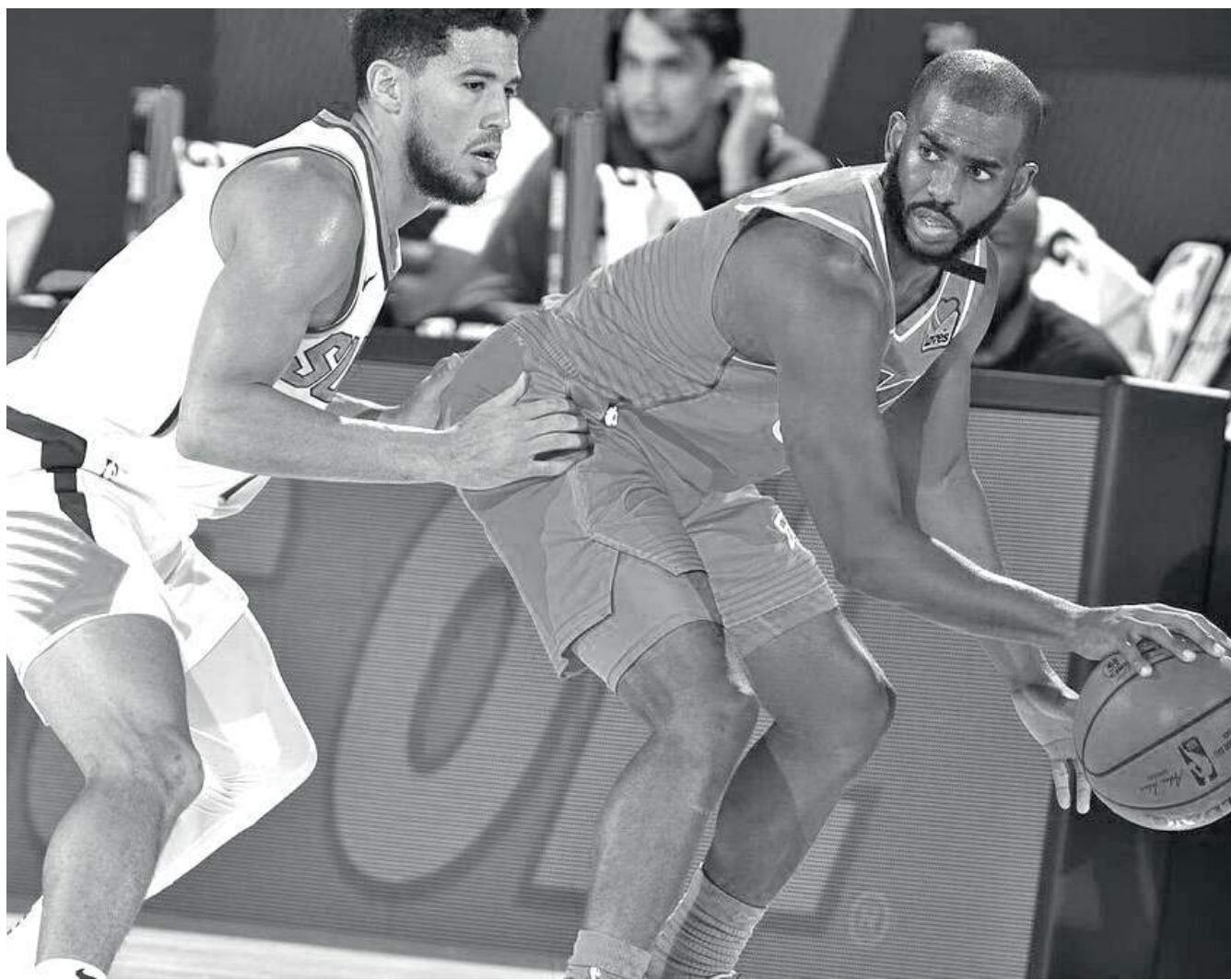
Young Suns guns Mikal Bridges and Cam Johnson and veteran Aron Baynes stepped in for him and unlocked a shooting, defending warhorse built for the NBA's current climate. An 8-0 run in the NBA restart stopped short of the playoffs but revealed something they desperately needed: a viable path toward success.

Right as Oubre made the molecular transformation from necessity to asset, reports surfaced that Suns superstar Devin Booker, who would probably love to make the playoffs at some point in his career, wanted Chris Paul.

Good NBA executives don't try to control the future. They merely adjust to reality. The faster you adjust, the better, because changing values creates transactional opportunities.

Thunder general manager Sam Presti has always had a knack for finding the eye of the storm and building a bunker inside it.

Here's an example of the benefits: In the summer of 2016, the Thunder swapped Serge Ibaka for Victor Oladipo, Ersan Ilyasova and Domantas Sabonis (which, gosh, what a lesson in how you should always ask for more) who they eventually traded for Paul George. In the summer of 2019, the ground shifted be-



In this Jan. 31, 2020 file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Chris Paul, right, is defended by the Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker during the first half of an NBA game in Phoenix. AP

neath the organization. Kawhi Leonard wanted to play with George, and George wanted to play with Leonard. They accepted it in a snap, getting a haul for George: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Danilo Gallinari, five first-round picks and two pick swaps. Russell Westbrook, who had a town named after him in Oklahoma, was gone within a week, traded to Houston for Paul, two first-round picks and two pick swaps.

This brings us to the present: The Suns acquired Paul and Abdel Nader, for Oubre, Ricky Rubio, Ty Jerome and a 2022 first-round pick.

The Thunder now have 17 first-round picks through 2026. That includes the Lakers' draft pick they just got for Dennis Schröder. No one knows what they will look like in five years and that's part of the draw. In our minds, we can mold the Thunder's nebulous future to our liking.

Which pissed-off star can they wrangle for Danny Green and a hoard of picks? Which one of their picks will turn into a sensation?

But a franchise can only live in utero for so long. The Suns, who haven't made the playoffs in a decade, were looking for something concrete.

Last summer, Daryl Morey was asked if the proliferation of analytics (really, the Sam Hinkie-fication of the NBA) made his job harder.

"When you're working with a team that's on the same part of the cycle, it's harder [to make trades]," Morey said. "I think people are valuing things more similar. But it actually becomes easier with a team that's at a different level of their life cycle. If it's a team that's in rebuild mode that's operating well, they're actually pretty easy to trade with if you're on your upswing. Both sides are valuing assets differently."

That's what happened here.

With Oubre out, Phoenix unlocked a lineup of Rubio, Booker, Johnson, Bridges and Deandre Ayton, which outscored opponents by 17 points per 100 possessions. Opportunity favors the prepared. The hitch in Bridges' shot disappeared, and he shot 40% from three in the bubble. With a 7-foot-1 wingspan, great feet and better instincts, he showed off his potential as a multi-positional defender, switching onto guards and picking up easy interceptions. Johnson can shoot from anywhere, and his defensive mobility has been surprisingly good. Ayton is turning into a springy, rangy rim protector who can dance with the occasional guard.

You can understand why the Suns made this temporary arrangement permanent, but it's not like they would have had too hard a time finding minutes for Oubre, even with Dario Saric in the mix. It often feels like the entire league is teetering toward playing five guys who are 6-foot-7 with 7-foot-2 wingspans.

But in exchange for all that goopy fun malleability, Phoenix went for it. Paul stabilizes the Suns. He gives them an anchor. Booker has never had a running mate like him. Ayton has never played with this kind of pick-and-roll practitioner.

In the context of the Western Conference playoff race, Oklahoma and Phoenix moved with the tide and shuffled places. Presti gets to play with the biggest hoard of potential in NBA history. Booker gets to play with Paul. All in all, a pretty good deal for both sides. *(AP/NBC)*

HOUSTON—Rockets star James Harden wants out of Houston and apparently, no amount of money will change that wish.

The eight-time All-Star rejected a contract extension from Houston—one that would have made him the first \$50 million per year player in league history—this offseason, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

By declining the extension, Harden has made it clear to Houston that he wants to be traded, per Wojnarowski, with the Brooklyn Nets as his desired destination. ESPN first reported that the Nets were Harden's top choice on Sunday.

In Brooklyn, Harden would reunite with his former Oklahoma City teammate and 2014 MVP Kevin Durant, as well as six-time All-Star Kyrie Irving. The trio would almost certainly make Brooklyn the favorites to win the

Harden turns down \$50M extension per year

Eastern Conference.

While Harden wants out, Houston has been reluctant to trade their superstar and is willing to wait for the right package. The Rockets are also unsure Brooklyn has the pieces that would intrigue Houston into making a deal, according to Wojnarowski.

Harden's backcourt mate, Russell Westbrook, has also reportedly asked to be traded, too. Both Harden and Westbrook aren't sold about the future of the Rockets and ability to win a championship in Houston, especially with head coach Mike D'Antoni and GM Daryl Morey no longer in the picture.

Harden has three years and \$133 million remaining on his current deal but has the ability to opt-out of his contract following the 2021-22 season.

Bucks get Holiday, Bogdanovic

Jrue Holiday is teaming up with MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee, The Athletic's Shams Charania reported.

In return, the Pelicans are receiving Eric Bledsoe, George Hill, three first-round picks and two future pick swaps. It's an all-in, present-oriented move for the Bucks, who have won 116 regular-season games over the past two seasons. Antetokounmpo has said that whether he'll sign a supermax extension will depend on the decisions the team makes. The New York Times' Marc Stein reports that there's been "chatter" recently that Antetokounmpo indeed plans to ink his five-year supermax extension.

Milwaukee earlier acquired Kings wing Bogdan Bogdanovic in a sign-and-trade,

sending Donte DiVincenzo, Ersan Ilyasova and DJ Wilson to Sacramento. Justin James is also moving to the Bucks in the deal. The 28-year-old Bogdanovic should play an important role for the Bucks as an offensive initiator. DiVincenzo, a Villanova product and the 17th pick in the 2018 draft, is the top attraction in the package heading to the Kings.

Holiday hasn't made an All-Star team since his final season as a Sixer in 2012-13, but he's a high-level two-way player. The 30-year-old averaged 17.6 points, 6.8 assists and 1.5 steals over seven seasons with the Pelicans, who will look to build around 2019 No. 1 pick overall pick Zion Williamson and new head coach Stan Van Gundy. Holiday has a \$26.3 million player

option for the 2021-22 season.

The balance of power in the Eastern Conference will be one fascinating storyline to watch early in this ultra-fast offseason. How smooth will the fit be with Holiday, Bogdanovic, Antetokounmpo and fellow All-Star Khris Middleton? Will Harden go to the Nets, his reported top trade destination? Does new Sixers president of basketball operations Daryl Morey have something up his sleeve, whether that's a major trade or moves on the margins?

The Sixers still own five picks in Wednesday night's NBA draft (Nos. 21, 34, 36, 49 and 58), Morey's first as the team's president of basketball operations. It seems a Holiday trade would've required them to deplete those draft assets considerably.

Meanwhile, Goran Dragic, playing near his All-NBA level of 2014, was a key reason Miami made a run all the way to the NBA Finals. His frustration at being sidelined on that big stage by torn plantar fascia was obvious.

While he wants to return to Miami and make another run at a ring, Dragic said he planned to test the free agent market.

"So, of course, I know Miami wants to bring me back. I'm hoping we can finish this championship run next season, but I know this is part of the business. It's a lot of options here and we'll see."

The Heat want Dragic back but also wants to keep their cap space open for the 2021 offseason. That could open the door for a team in need of a point guard, such as the Los Angeles Clippers, to come in and offer their full \$9.3 million mid-level exception for three or four years. *(AP/NBC)*

Vikings overcome Patterson return, top Bears



CHICAGO (AP)—Kirk Cousins will take a victory any day of the week. That he finally got one on a Monday night didn't seem to matter.

Cousins threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns, and the Minnesota Vikings overcame a 104-yard kickoff return by Chicago's Cordarrelle Patterson to beat the Bears 19-13.

Cousins won for the first time in 10 career Monday night starts. He hit Adam Thielen with a 6-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter to put Minnesota ahead by the final margin, and the Vikings (4-5) held on for their third straight win. They also snapped a four-game losing streak against Chicago (5-5).

"Great to get a win," Cousins said. "We'll try to keep building on it now, and it'll be so important to keep stringing these together if we can. That's really what the rest of the season will be all about."

Bears quarterback Nick Foles got taken from the field on a cart in the game's final minute. Coach Matt Nagy said Foles' leg and hip were being evaluated after he got slammed on his right side by Minnesota's Ifeadi Odenigbo as he threw the ball away.

Patterson joined Josh Cribbs and Leon Washington as the only players with eight kick returns for touchdowns when he ran back the opening kickoff of the second half to give Chicago a 13-7 lead. It was the longest kickoff return in franchise history, surpassing Gale Sayers' 103-yarder against Pittsburgh on Sept. 17, 1967.

Patterson had all the room he needed as he sprinted up the sideline and raised two fingers as he closed in on the end zone.

"I don't know what I did, man. I was blacked out at the time," Patterson said.

The record return was the lone bright spot for the Bears as they lost their fourth in a row and matched their longest skid since Nagy was hired in 2018.

Cousins completed 25 of 36 passes with two touchdowns to Thielen, who has nine on the season. His one-handed TD grab in the first quarter was particularly impressive.

Minnesota's Dalvin Cook ran for 96 yards on 30 attempts. Justin Jefferson caught eight passes for 135 yards and tied Randy Moss' club rookie record with his fourth 100-yard receiving game.

The defense did not allow an offensive touchdown for the first time in 20 games, including the playoffs, and the Vikings won for just the fourth time in 18 games at Soldier



AP
Minnesota Vikings running back Dalvin Cook tries to get away from the hold of Chicago Bears cornerback Buster Skrine (24) during the first half of an NFL game, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, in Chicago.

to process. We know it's two Monday Nights we didn't perform well. It's just frustrating."

Brees has rib fractures, collapsed lung

Drew Brees has been diagnosed with multiple rib fractures and a collapsed right lung, a person with knowledge of the situation said Monday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Saints have not announced specifics about Brees' injury, which the 41-year-old quarterback said occurred on a heavy hit by San Francisco defensive lineman Kentavious Street in the second quarter of New Orleans 27-13 victory over the Niners on Sunday.

Brees' injuries, which were first reported by ESPN, are expected to sideline the quarterback for multiple weeks. Two of the Saints' next three games are against the Falcons, first on Sunday in the Superdome and then in Atlanta on Dec. 6. In between, New Orleans visits Denver on Nov. 29.

Saints coach Sean Payton said Monday he would not comment on any injuries before the first required injury report of this week on Wednesday.

But with Brees virtually certain to miss upcoming games, the Saints' offense is likely to be run primarily by Jameis Winston, a 2015 first overall draft choice by Tampa Bay whom New Orleans signed to a one-year contract as a free agent this offseason. Taysom Hill, a utility player who intermittently takes over for Brees on option plays—but also plays tight end and on special teams—also could see his snaps at quarterback increase, depending on Winston's performance.

While Brees initially missed just two plays after the hit by Street and returned for another touchdown drive in the final two minutes of the half, he told Payton he did not feel fit to continue in the second half on Sunday. Winston took most of the snaps after that, with Hill also running a number of plays behind center.

The Saints have not been critical of the nature of Street's hit, which came on what would have been a sack had it not been flagged for a personal foul. Street got a clean shot on Brees, de-cleated the quarterback and came down hard on the right side of Brees' torso.

Field since it reopened in 2003 following renovations.

"It's a goofy year for everybody," said Harrison Smith, who had an interception. "We're starting to have a little bit of a feeling of how to make our own energy and our own confidence. I think we're starting to figure it out a little bit."

With offensive coordinator

Bill Lazor calling the plays after Nagy handed off those duties in an effort to lift a unit that ranks near the bottom of the NFL, the Bears managed 149 yards. It was their lowest total since they had 147 against San Francisco on Dec. 3, 2017.

"We need to make sure that we're really honestly going back now and saying OK,

what's going on, where are we at now that we have some time to really see," Nagy said.

Foles threw for 106 yards and an interception. It was a far cry from his previous start against the Vikings, when he led Philadelphia past them in the NFC championship game on the way to a Super Bowl title in 2018.

Khalil Mack had his first interception since 2018. But the fading Bears came out flat again on a Monday night; they were dominated by the Rams in Los Angeles last month. And to left tackle Charles Leno Jr., that makes it even worse.

"Disappointment," he said. "A lot of emotions, negative emotions right now. We've got

Schilling, Clemens, and Bonds leading candidates on Hall ballot

NEW YORK (AP)—Curt Schilling, Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds are the leading candidates returning to baseball's Hall of Fame ballot in a year without any favorites among the new names.

Schilling was third behind Derek Jeter and Larry Walker with 278 of 397 votes last year, finishing at 70% and 20 votes shy in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Clemens had 242 votes for 61% and Bonds 241 for 60.7%, both well short of the 75% needed, which was 298 votes last year. Both were overwhelming favorites before suspicions of steroids use.

Clemens has denied using performance-enhancing drugs, and Bonds says he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

All three will be making their ninth appearance on the BBWAA ballot this year, one

short of the limit. Omar Vizquel was next in last year's voting with 209 ballots for 52.6%.

Pitchers Barry Zito, Tim Lincecum, Mark Buehrle and A.J. Burnett, and outfielder Torii Hunter are among the top newcomers on the ballot announced Monday.

To be eligible for the ballot, a player must have been retired for five seasons, and this year's group—which also includes former A's Nick Swisher and Dan Haren—is made up of players who might not get much support on ballots.

Among the newcomers, Hudson's is an interesting case. He spent the first seven seasons of his career in Oakland as part of the famous Big Three before moving on to Atlanta for nine seasons. He finished up with the Giants, making the All-Star team and winning his lone title in 2014.

Hudson was a four-time All-Star—making it with all three of his teams—and finished in the top six in Cy Young voting four times. He had a 3.49 ERA and won 222 games, which is part of what makes his case stand out.

Hudson ranks 76th all-time in wins, and given the way the game is trending, he might be one of the last to reach 200. Justin Verlander

and Zack Greinke are the only active pitchers with 200 wins and Jon Lester (193), Clayton Kershaw (175) and Max Scherzer (175) are the only ones with a shot of getting there anytime soon.

Zito was 165-143 with a 4.04 ERA for Oakland and San Francisco, including 23-5 in 2002. Buehrle was 214-160 with a 3.81 ERA, throwing a perfect game for the Chicago White Sox against Tampa Bay on July 23, 2009,



USMNT surpasses goals with win over Panama

LOS ANGELES—It's not often you need two hands to keep track of the scoring in a soccer game, so Gio Reyna's confusion was understandable as he came off the field Monday following the United States national team's most prolific performance in more than a year.

"I don't know, was it six or seven tonight?" he asked after scoring the first goal in the U.S. team's 6-2 rout of Panama in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. "Obviously, we scored a lot of goals."

The most, in fact, since a 7-0 Nations League win over Cuba 13 months ago. But it wasn't so much how many goals the U.S. scored as it was who scored them. Sebastian Soto, who came on in the 77th minute, finished with two in his international debut, Nicholas Gioacchini had two in his first national team start and Reyna had one in his second U.S. appearance.

Richy Ledezma, who made his U.S. debut as a second-half substitute, had two assists.

None are old enough to buy a beer in California to celebrate—Gioacchini and Reyna were part of the second-youngest starting XI in national team history—and none had been in a national team camp before last week.

Since Monday's game was



a friendly and not a competitive game, none are "capped"—the term used to describe a player locked to one national team—to the U.S. Instead, they are among 11 players on this month's 23-man roster who are eligible to play for other national teams, a number which underscores the diversity of a young team that started players from clubs in eight countries Monday.

It's unlikely any will be

seeking other international options however.

Soto, 20, from Carlsbad, turned down an invitation to join Chile for World Cup qualifiers earlier this fall. Reyna, 18, has a Portuguese passport but has followed his father Claudio and mother Danielle into the U.S. program and is certain to stay.

Ledezma, 20, was approached last year about playing for Mexico but declined.

Gioacchini, 20, born in Missouri to Italian and Jamaican parents, gave little doubt which way he was leaning after scoring a pair of first-half goals four minutes apart Monday.

"I had a week I'll never, never ever forget," said Gioacchini, who missed a penalty shot in the second half, costing him a hat trick. "Scoring goals for my country is something that not everyone gets a chance to do. It's almost like a blessing."

Panama's Juan David Tejada and United States' Tyler Adams leap to head the ball during their international friendly match at the SC Wiener Neustadt Stadium in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, Monday, Nov. 16, 2020.

Coach Gregg Berhalter said he believes the momentum the U.S. program is building will be reason enough to stay.

"All we want to do is create an environment for them that they want to be in, that they trust is a good environment for their development," Berhalter said. "But it's going to be the family that decides."

The U.S., playing for just the second time since Feb. 1 and the third time this year, fell behind in the eighth minute on the first of two goals by José Fajardo. Reyna matched that on a free kick in 18th minute, becoming the third-youngest goal-scorer in U.S. history, before two goals from Gioacchini midway through the first half put the U.S. ahead to stay.

Soto closed the scoring late in the second half with a pair of goals sandwiched around a header from the Galaxy's Sebastian Lletget, the only MLS player on the U.S. roster.

Soto was a standout at last year's Under-20 World Cup and is on second-tier Telstar in

the Netherlands. He debuted along with Richy Ledezma, a 20-year-old midfielder who made his first senior appearance for PSV Eindhoven on Nov. 1; and Chris Richards, a 20-year-old defender who made his first Bayern Munich appearance on June 20.

Only Christian Pulisic (17 years, 253 days in 2016), who missed this game with a hamstring injury, and Juan Agudelo (17 years, 359 days in 2010)

scored at a younger age. The U.S. has used 90 players since the October 2017 defeat at Trinidad and Tobago that eliminated the Americans from the 2018 World Cup, including 52 debuting. The starting lineup averaged 22 years, 154 days, the second-youngest American lineup behind an average of 22 years, 71 days for an exhibition at Italy on Nov. 20, 2018.

"We got a little bit of a taste of what the CONCACAF teams would be like against us," Reyna said. "We're all just thinking about this game and we're happy. Guys made their debuts and scored the goals. Overall, just a good night."

Berhalter said the U.S. may schedule another match next month, which presumably would be with players mostly from MLS. (AP/NBC)



NMI

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branch, a selection or any type of sport organization, sport facility. Entities such as schools, universities, profit, and non-profit organizations are also welcomed to join," Horvath.

NMSA executive director Carline Sablan thanked Horvath and FITEQ for reaching out to the association and offering new sporting opportunities to the NMI. Sablan added that the programs' information will be shared with to NMSA-member federations and the community. Interested individuals or groups may contact NMSA at

marianassports@gmail.com for more information.

"NMSA always welcomes opportunities to get involved in programs that help develop the skills of our athletes and coaches/officials and encourage our community to take part in activities that not only promote sports excellence, but also health and wellness. NMSA will do what it can to support the development of teqball if the interest is there," Sablan said. (PR)

FITEQ PHOTO

A player goes for a header during a game in this year's Poland National Challenger Series.



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members and though its top runners were expected to log a lot of miles, still making it to the finish line was a team effort.

"This race helped us work together and become closer as a class," 10th Graders SIS captain Tiana Cabrera said.

Jack Linden, one of the 22 runners of Freshman '24, said it was fun running with his friends and classmates and supporting each other as they moved closer to the "finish line," especially at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Saipan International School students, seen here competing in last Saturday's 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the CPA Airport Field, logged the required miles to complete the Run The Marianas.

"It has been difficult in the last nine months to be outside and do anything. It's great to finally be able to do something related to sports and interesting to see how we really came together, plan, and safety finish the race," Linden said.

As for English Academy, the Run The Marianas allowed their off-island members to connect with those who are able to stay on Saipan.

"Almost half of the team (English Academy had nine members) has been unable to return to Saipan because of visa restrictions. This has been a great way of bringing the class together and includ-

ing them (off-island). Also, some of the students have discovered they like running and are picking up a new, healthy hobby," said English Academy teacher Cary Bertocini.

English Academy, Mile High Club, Freshmen '24, and 10th Graders SIS are among the 43 teams that joined the Run The Marianas. Adding the 13 individual participants, the virtual event has drawn 35 runners, including members of newcomer Saipan Homeschool Co-Op. Runners are from Saipan, Rota, Guam, Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Macau, Czech Republic, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand.

"I have been overwhelmed with the response to the event. The 9th and 10th graders at SIS through themselves into it wholeheartedly and really raked in the miles. They are in the school category and the number of members is greater. Mile High Club completed the event with only 10 runners and have been extremely supportive of the event in our Facebook Group," race director Ron Snyder said.

Medals are awarded to the Run The Marianas finishers, while certificates of completion are given to teams/individuals after every island stop completed.



CP3 trade
works
for Suns,
Thunder

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Vikings
overcome
Patterson return,
top Bears

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI invited to join teqball development programs

The CNMI, through the Northern Marianas Sports Association, has been invited to participate in the Fédération Internationale de Teqball's national federation and club development programs.

FITEQ is the world governing body of teqball, a football-based sport that is played on a curved table with rules similar to table tennis and players (singles, men's and women's doubles, mixed doubles) using a soccer ball in an indoor or outdoor game.

Lilla Horvath, FITEQ's Continental development manager for Asia and Oceania, in a letter sent to NMSA, encouraged the association to share information on teqball

development opportunities with member federations and the community in general. Interested individuals or clubs may form a local teqball group and take advantage of the development programs currently being offered to promote the new sport in the NMI.

"We believe that starting teqball sport development from the grassroots level is the best possible way to introduce a new sport to any country. Therefore, we have created the National Federation Development program as well as the Teqball Club Development initiative. We would be very pleased to start

our sport development in the Northern Mariana Islands as well," Horvath said.

The official added that so far six countries in Oceania are playing the sport created in 2012 by former pro football player Gabot Borsanyi, businessman Gyuri Gattyan, and computer scientist Viktor Huszar. The list includes Samoa, Cook Islands, Guam, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Under FITEQ's National Federation Development Program, a newly established group will receive £6,000 (a little over \$7,000) for one year; administrative and partnership support such as

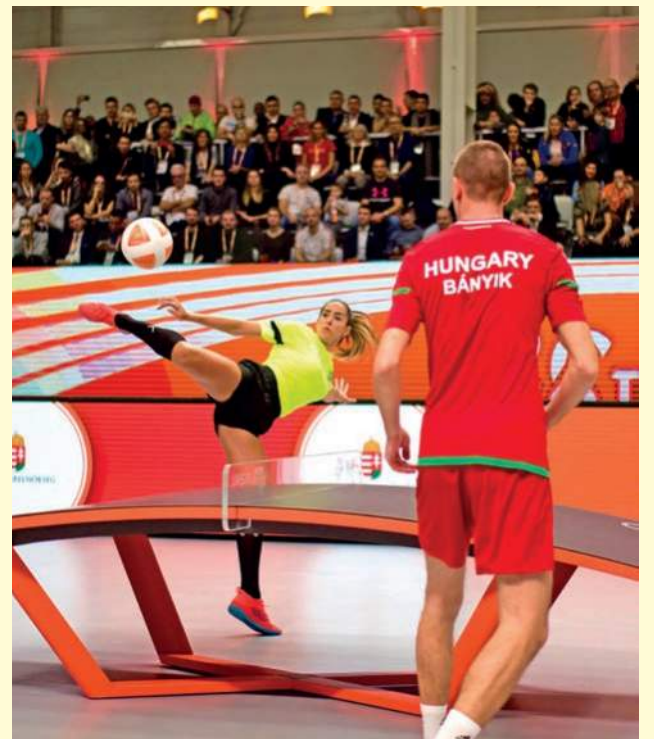
educational courses and event hosting grants; and donated equipment. For the Club Development Program, FITEQ will be giving away free Teq LITE tables. A national federation that has 15 clubs will receive 21 Teq tables, while 40 or more clubs will be given 56 Teq tables.

"FITEQ requires that any club joining the development program must be a legal entity. It can be a football club, a

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FITEQ PHOTO

A player kicks the ball during a game in last year's Teqball Championship in Budapest, Hungary.



4 complete Run The Marianas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mile High Club, English Academy, Freshmen '24, and 10th Graders SIS "reached" Rota to finish the Run The Marianas about three months ahead of schedule.

Freshmen '24, 10th Graders SIS, and Mile High Club completed the 460-mile virtual race that started at Farallon De Pajaros last week, while English Academy "made" it to the finish line on Rota last Tuesday. The four teams' Run the Marianas journey brought them to Maug (42-mile mark), Asuncion (67), Agrihan (130), Pagan (175), Alamagan (214), Guguan (234), Sarigan (276), Anatahan (300), Farallon De Midinilla (325), Saipan (376), SIS (388), Tinian (397), and Aguijan (410) before the final stop on Rota. The early finishers joined the Saipan International School and Northern Marianas Athletics-organized event about a week after the race kicked off (Oct. 15) and logged the required mileage way ahead of the Feb. 14 cut-off.

"I was expecting that we will finish around December, but more team members joined, the date came closer and closer," said Mile High Club captain Jeffrey Bacani, who teamed up with Mary

Deala, Jonathan Sugutan, Terence Leung, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Anastasia Dela Cruz, Jay Muna, Tricia Cortez, and Elena Gersonde.

Bacani, who recorded about 25 miles during his runs on the road across the Oleai Sports Complex and on a treadmill, added that having teammates putting in the time and effort motivated him to get up in the morning and make his contribution.

"Some of our members averaged 20 miles a week," Bacani said, adding that Dela Cruz registered the most miles with more than 100.

Gersonde chipped in 44 miles and recorded most of them in Marpi, as she loves running on hills. She echoed Bacani's thoughts on having more teammates challenging and inspiring you to put in the miles even though they ran on different locations and time.

One team, one goal
10th Graders SIS has 19

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rex Pixley, right, and Tiana Cabrera, left, seen here racing in last Saturday's 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the CPA Airport Field, are members of Saipan International School teams that completed the Run The Marianas last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mile High Club runners pose for a photo after "reaching" Rota and finishing the Run The Marianas race.

